

GENUINE MEMOIRS
OF THE
COUNTESS DUBARRE,
MISTRESS to LOUIS XV.

CONTAINING

Her singular AMOURS and CURIOUS
ADVENTURES with the PRINCES of
the BLOOD, MINISTERS of STATE and
Others,

INCLUDING

The secret and political History of the French
Court, during the Reign of that Monarch.
And a circumstantial Account of her Conduct
in Retirement.

A New EDITION, translated from the FRENCH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L. II.

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MEMOIRS
OF THE
COUNTESS DUBARRE.

THE death of Louis XV. having closed the brilliant scenes of the Countess Dubarrè, whom we may now look upon as dead to the public, this is the proper time for concluding the particular anecdotes of her life until that fatal period.

ALL the royal family, as we have already observed, detested that favourite; but as, out of respect for the King, they avoided offering her any direct insult, they took every opportunity of shewing their resentment and indignation against those court ladies and ministers who seemed most

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attached to her interest. We have taken notice of the mortifying behaviour of the Countess of Provence to Madam Valentinois. Madam Sophia, shortly after, was much more severe against the Duke of la Vrilliere, who thought to have sheltered himself from the resentment of that princess, under the powerful protection of Madam Dubarrè. The courtiers relate this affair in the following manner:

THE Marchioness of Mesmes, one of the ladies who waited on the Princesses, had prevailed upon Madam Sophia to solicit a place for a son in the household of the Count d'Artois, which there was then a talk of establishing. The Princess applied to the King himself for the favour, and his Majesty promised it should be granted. The Duke of la Vrilliere, who presided over the King's household, and that of the royal family, was dissatisfied that this favour should be obtained, without consulting him. He complained of the affair to Madam Dubarrè, and exaggerated the many inconveniencies that must arise from his Majesty's giving away places
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without his knowledge. The Countess thought his arguments were excellent, and carried the complaints of the Minister to the foot of the throne. She reproached her august lover for the little consideration he shewed for a faithful servant, who after his zealous attachment for forty-eight years, was now bewailing the loss of his master's confidence, at the very time that he was most worthy of it. She represented, that such conduct was capable of disgusting ministers, or at least damping their zeal, and might be very prejudicial to his interests and those of the state, by the continual mistakes into which his condescension might betray him. His Majesty, though convinced by the solid and persuasive arguments of his mistress, found it difficult however to break his word. It was agreed that the Duke of la Vrilliere should take the affair upon himself, and not dispatch the order for the young gentleman, as it was to be issued from his office. Madam Sophia, informed of all those manœuvres, sent for the Minister: she affected to be ignorant of what had passed in the private

conference already mentioned ; and only took occasion, from the delay of the order for Monsieur de Mesmes, to reproach the Duke of la Vrilliere for the scandalous trade he carried on with regard to the different places belonging to his department. Madam Langeac was not spared in those reproaches ; and the reprimand was so severe, that the courtiers observed the Duke quite pale and trembling, as he came out of the Princess's apartment. He instantly repaired to his protectress, in order to vent his grief and disappointment. The blow was already given ; the scene took place after dinner. Monsieur de la Vrilliere had ate heartily, as he usually did : the consequence was, he was seized with a violent indigestion, which all the respect due to the place and the mistress, could not restrain him from openly shewing. He was quite senseless, and was obliged to be carried away in the most loathsome situation. He was very ill ; and to add to his distress, he was forced to dispatch the order.

THE King comforted Madam Dubarrè by what flattered the vanity and pride of the
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the favourite. People had talked a long while of a toilet of gold that she had ordered to be made: many persons, however, questioned the truth of this report, looking upon such a thing as too expensive; as the Dauphiness did not desire an article of so great magnificence, and the Queen never had the like. The matter now, however, was past all doubt; every one might view the various parts of this toilet at Roeltier's, the King's chaser. It was rumoured likewise that a gold service for the table was making for the Countess. In short, his Majesty allowed her to make up a diamond bouquet of such magnitude and richness, that it could be at pleasure converted into a whole suit. This bouquet, it was said, would cost 15000*l*.

HIS Majesty was so far intoxicated with his passion for this beauty, that he no longer observed any of that outward decency of which he had been before so extremely tenacious. He suffered an entertainment, in the most licentious stile, to be represented before him at Choisi, because Madam Dubarrè was pleased with it.

The subject was, *In Wine there is Truth*, a comic opera of the Sieur Collé. The piece was so loose, that many court ladies, who were invited to the entertainment, having never seen it before, were quite disconcerted and abashed; and the modesty of those ladies contributed not a little to the amusement of the Countess. Nothing could be a stronger proof of the slavish attachment of the King, than his giving a sanction to all this by his presence, while he did not seem to enjoy the least pleasure. This was conjectured from all the little arts which the Countess practised, in order to amuse him; and the Monarch was not ashamed to exhibit himself in so indecent a manner to the eyes of the court. In order to form a better idea of the opinion of the public with respect to those entertainments, let us consult the manuscript journal that has been so often cited in those matters. It gives the following narrative :

DECEMBER the 26th, 1771. “ All those
“ who were at Choisi last week, attest the
“ licentiousness of the piece, called, *There*
“ *is Truth in Wine*, and the great delight
“ of

“ of Madam Dubarrè at the representa-
“ tion. His Majesty did not seem to take
“ any pleasure in it ; though the mistress
“ gave a loose to every thing that could
“ divert the Sovereign, and endeavoured
“ to unbend his mind from the cares of
“ the throne, by amusing him with the
“ tricks of her lap-dog. The supper was
“ likewise joyous. The *Sieur L'Arrivée*,
“ and his wife, sung all the time : the
“ songs were in the same strain with the
“ comedy. At the table with the King,
“ were twelve ; three of whom only were
“ ladies, the Countess Dubarrè, the lady
“ of Mareschal Mirepoix, and the Mar-
“ chioness Montmorenci. Madam Du-
“ barrè continued her efforts to amuse the
“ Sovereign. She sat between him and
“ the Duke of Duras. This nobleman,
“ who is an excellent companion, was
“ in the highest spirits, and gave a loose
“ to joy and humour. He is on the most
“ intimate footing with Madam Dubarrè,
“ though he was one of the protesting
“ peers. Obnoxious persons are not usu-
“ ally admitted to those private suppers.

“ It so happened, however, that, contrary to custom, people were present, on this occasion, who related the most interesting particulars.”

It is added, “ That the glass was freely circulated ; and that every thing conspired to enliven the entertainment. Madam Dubarrè shewed that eager desire to please, which gives charms to women of the least attraction, and adds new lustre to beauty itself.”

BUT the more Madam Dubarrè grew in favour with the Sovereign, the more violent was the hatred of the royal family against her. It must, indeed, be confessed, that she sometimes gave just cause for their resentment. She, for example, indulged herself, at this time, in some satirical jest on the pretended impotency of the Dauphin. This was communicated to the Prince. He thought the jest unpardonable. People wished he had instantly repaired to her apartments, and made her feel, in the severest manner, her impertinence in attempting to make a jest of him. It was probably this behaviour that provoked

voked the Prince to make the reply he did in regard to the Viscount Dubarré, for whom his aunt solicited the place of first equery that was vacant. "Let him not dare to approach me," said the Dauphin; "if he does, he shall have my boot across the face." To conceive the meaning of this menace, the reader must be informed, that it is the duty of the first equery to draw off the King's boots when he comes from hunting, or elsewhere; and, consequently, those of the Dauphin, who has the same household with his Majesty.

THIS, probably, prevented the King from granting this favour to his mistress; for the Chancellor, who solicited the same for Count Maupeou his son, was, in no degree, capable of counterbalancing the pretensions of his rival. The enemies of the chief justice made a handle of this contention, in order to create a dissention between him and his cousin; and the ministers, who no longer had occasion for his assistance, as the work was done, now wanting to have all the advantage of it without the odium, took part with the

latter. This gave rise to new intrigues, which shall be explained hereafter. In the mean time, we must return to the affair of the place of first equery, which Madam Dubarrè, notwithstanding all her influence, could not obtain for her nephew; and it is to be observed, that the mortification she felt at the disappointment, is the more reasonably to be ascribed to the reply made by the Dauphin, which has been already mentioned, as the answer of his Majesty justifies the conjecture. "Don't persist," said he; "the Dauphin would be very apt to realize his menace." The King, however, extricated himself out of this dilemma in his usual manner; the place was given to nobody.

At the same time a design was formed to deprive the Marquis of Marigny of the place of Surveyor-general of the Works, in order to bestow it on John Count Dubarrè. Marigny was fortunately apprised by his father-in-law of the measures that were carrying on against him; and, by his presence, defeated the schemes of those who were endeavouring to supplant him.

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THE year 1772 opened in a manner glorious for the Countess Dubarrè. The affair of the Duke of Choiseuil relative to the pecuniary reward for his service, which till then hung in suspense, was now settled in his favour in the most liberal manner. He was indebted for this favour to the generosity of the favourite. She was complimented with verses on the occasion, in which she was justly extolled for the god-like disposition of forgetting injuries, and heaping favours even upon an enemy. But those praises were no way equal to the murmurs and complaints excited by the table-service of gold that was making for this lady. Attempts were made to stifle those reports, by giving out, that it was not to be entirely gold; and, afterwards, that there was no such thing: and in order to give credit to these assertions, the curious, who ran in crowds to Roeltiers in order to view those articles of luxury, were denied admittance. But the imprudence in first publishing it, had already given room to too many to be informed of the truth. It was well known that government had al-

ready given orders to the artists, with fifteen hundred marks of gold; because he had refused to undertake the work without such an advance. In short, the artist himself had the imprudence to shew some of his friends particular parts of the toilet; among the rest, the looking-glass, which was of the most exquisite beauty and taste. It was ornamented at top with two Cupids, holding a crown in such a manner, that Madam Dubarrè could not look in the glass without seeing herself crowned.

THE favourite, at this time, had another triumph, which though not so great a subject of scandal, appeared, however, very ridiculous; and might be equally pernicious, as it still evinced more clearly her intimate connection with the comptroller-general. It was not doubted but that it was by his direction that the treasury-board came to pay their respects to the Countess, on the opening of the new year. This honour was performed by a deputation from the body. One of the deputies harangued the Divinity of the Day in a very complimentary oration, in which he
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set forth the services done by that body to the state, in order to shew the claim they had to her protection.

MADAM Dubarrè, whose reply had been, no doubt, previously suggested, told them, That she was no stranger to the advantages government had reaped from their attachment upon critical occasions; that the Abbé Terrai had given her a full account of those matters. She exhorted them to a continuance of their zeal, promising to contribute all in her power to the advantage and wishes of their body.

THE favourite, about the same time, exerted an authority, which proved the great power she had over the treasury. Having had an opportunity of knowing the extraordinary talents of Monsieur Vernet, the famous painter of sea-pieces, who had adorned the Lodge of Lucienne with some beautiful pieces in his way, she paid a visit to the artist, out of respect to his merits. She there saw two pieces finished, and ready to be packed up, in order to be sent to a foreign nobleman, for whom they had been executed. After examining them

with great attention, she was so much pleased, that she desired to have them.

MONSIEUR Vernet in vain declared, that he could not possibly gratify her desire, as the pictures were no longer his. Regardless of his intreaties, she forcibly carried them away; but, in order to make amends to the painter, she immediately gave him an order on a scrap of paper for 50,000 livres on the Sieur Beaujon, the banker of the Court. This somewhat consoled the painter for the robbery, and gained this new Minerva great respect among the artists.

THIS act of munificence must have given them great pleasure, as they now more plainly perceived, that they were likely to be entirely dependant on her liberality. Plans were at this time in agitation for building a new theatre for French pieces: All those who had any hand in drawing those plans, were studious to seek her approbation. What happened in regard to Monsieur Liégeon, convinced them they were right in so doing, or rather that they could not do otherwise. This young architect,

test, having obtained leave to present his plan to the King, was introduced into the private apartments by the Duke of Duras, gentleman of the bedchamber. His Majesty received him with great condescension and goodness; after examining his plans for a considerable time, he then led him into the apartments of Madam Dubarrè. The Countess was ill, and in bed. Her august lover ordered the cloth to be laid; and while he dined very heartily, he ordered the artist to explain his draughts to the sick lady. She was no less pleased with them than his Majesty, and in particular expressed her approbation, that those who should go to the play might be set down under cover. This she remarked must be very pleasing to the ladies, who generally go to such places in full dress. Thus, by the way, we may observe, that her passion for shew and luxury appeared on every occasion.

THE part of a Maintenon, which the favourite began to play, had likewise its bitter and sour. In the midst of all her splendor, continual efforts were made to
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rouse the King out of a passion that was still looked upon as unworthy of him; and, as the real motive could not be decently assigned, repeated indigestions that attacked him successively, furnished another argument that promised a better effect. His physicians were desired to remind him of his declining vigour; that his commerce with the favourite was such a source of enervating pleasures, as might shorten his life, and hurry him to the tomb. He was brought to a knowledge, that the alterations he felt in his health generally happened after his private interviews with the Countess; but what contributed most to flatter them with hopes of success, was, the fear of the weak Sovereign himself, who trembled at the approaching year of 1773, being the 63d of his age, and the grand climacteric. All these ominous reflections vanished, however, with the cause that produced them. When his Majesty recovered, he quickly forgot his age.

MADAM Dubarrè had another cause of uneasiness. The King having extolled the charms of the Princess of Lamballi before her,

her, she conceived so great jealousy on the occasion, that she reproached her august lover, and complained of the reports he suffered to circulate with regard to his design of marrying that Princess. The King, offended at the reproach, replied, as it was said, with some peevishness,—“ Madam, I might do worse.” She felt the severity of this answer; and was so affected, that she broke into loud complaints and lamentations. His Majesty, weary of so disagreeable a scene, quitted the place. The confidants of the Countess being informed of what had passed, shewed her the imprudence of her conduct. They advised her not to suffer the King to go to bed in the humour he was in. She was prevailed on with difficulty. She, however, at length, repaired to her toilet, and equipped herself in that character in which she was most pleasing to the Monarch. She dressed herself like a Bacchanalian; and, assuming the appearance of disorder with great art, entered the King’s apartment, who laughed heartily the moment he saw her.

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The countenance of his Majesty brightened up, and love resumed all her empire.

HOWEVER clearly so many examples might shew the influence of Madam Dubarrè over the Sovereign, her enemies, notwithstanding, were not discouraged from their attacks. A kind of ode was circulated with great privacy. It was addressed to the King; in which the writer exhorted him to open his eyes, and to recollect those halcyon days when he was the love and delight of his people. Though this piece seemed particularly levelled at the new revolution, notice was taken of his passion for the Countess, which was treated with great contempt.

THOSE who envied the favourite, spread, at the same time, another report. It was said, that a rupture had happened, and that the Royal Lover had beat his mistress. This trifling affair, which was represented with the usual malignity of courtiers, was as follows :

MADAM Dubarrè had been indisposed for several days. The physicians prescribed bleeding to the patient, who, unwilling to sub-

submit to the operation, affected all the delicacy and little airs which are common with the fair sex on such occasions. His Majesty, who was present, endeavoured to prevail on her to comply with necessity, and the lady still resisting, the King gave her a gentle tap. Hence arose those absurd stories relative to the quarrel between the lovers, the consequences of which were exaggerated, though at any rate, it was no more than a proof of excessive passion.

THE return also of the husband to Paris, perhaps, gave rise to those foolish reports. It was well known that he had been purposely removed on account of the scandalous life he led, at the very time that there was the greatest talk of the hopes the Countess had of being married to the King, though it was observed that this marriage would be preceded by a divorce. Men, who are apt to put the worst face upon every thing, would fain intimate that a more safe and expeditious method had been taken to get rid of the former. It was said, that he was fallen into a decline : with this report, hints were thrown out, that sufficiently

ciently indicated their meaning. It was, in all probability, to refute this calumny, that Count William was permitted to return. He appeared in every quarter of Paris, in order to shew that he was fat and lusty, and in perfect health. Perhaps too, he had been made to promise more decency and conduct; and, indeed, he took a house which he furnished in a splendid manner, and celebrated his arrival by a sumptuous entertainment.

WE have already taken notice of the coolness that happened between Madam Dubarrè and the Chancellor. Many people were unwilling to believe it; but they no longer entertained a doubt about the matter, after the punishment inflicted on Billard, whom the favourite could not save, notwithstanding all her zeal and endeavours. Every person has heard of this Billard, so famous for his bankruptcy and hypocrisy. He was nephew to Billard Dumouceau, the godfather of Madam Dubarrè; and the friendship of that lady for the latter made her exert her utmost efforts, in order to preserve the criminal
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from bringing a disgrace on his family. He had been condemned to the *Carçan**, and afterwards to be banished. She first obtained a respite, which the Chief Justice, who was too politic to oppose the favourite openly, granted with all the readiness imaginable; but when it came to the absolute pardon itself, which she solicited from his Majesty, Monsieur de Maupeou insinuated to the King the fatal tendency of granting a pardon to a man against whom all Paris had been exclaiming a long time, and who was already looked upon as half pardoned by the lenity of his sentence. He extolled the benevolence of the Countess, but still insisted on how necessary it was for the Sovereign not to listen to every suggestion of pity. There was so much coolness, deliberation and art in his arguments, that he prevailed; and Billard was exposed to public shame and derision. A *bon mot*, spoken by his Majesty on the occasion, was sufficient to mortify Madam Dubarrè, as it shewed her the little regret he had in let-

* The *Carçan* is a punishment in France, that bears some resemblance to the pillory with us.

ting his clemency give way to justice. The day on which Billard suffered, was very fine, which the King observed ; and making a jest of the culprit before his courtiers, " He will," said he, " have most glorious weather for the exhibition." This particular, however, serves only to confirm the known inconsistency of the character of Lewis XV. The ascendant of his mistress still daily increased, and the insolence of the Dubarrès augmenting in proportion, was a sufficient proof of it. The brother-in-law had the effrontery to marry his mistress, (of whom we have already taken notice,) to an officer, a knight of St. Lewis ; and what was very singular, this officer was also named Murat ; so that this fictitious name which she had assumed, like other courtezans, only out of decency, became her real name, and was confirmed to her in the face of the church. He continued, however, to live with her, and affected thus to proclaim a scandal, that, till then, had been confined to princes, noblemen, or ministers, as if he meant to insult public decency more. He carried his indecency

decency soon after to the utmost height, in standing sponsor with her to the child of a celebrated courtesan of the name of *Beauvoisin*. She had card-parties at her house, where the most distinguished libertines of Court and city assembled. 'Twas this occasioned her intimacy with the Count. There were such preparations for the christening, that it made a great noise in the neighbourhood; and as there were twelve carriages in a line, and it was difficult for them to get up to the parish church, called Montmartre, the rector had the complaisance to come down to a small chapel, where he baptised the new-born bastard. This flattery of the pastor provoked the populace, and excited the mirth of the more sensible; but it was an argument of the power of the family.

IN the manuscript journal, which has been our frequent guide in collecting facts, we meet with a circumstance relating to that period of the life of Madam Dubarré, which we are at present treating of. From this we may infer what the general opinion of the public was with regard to her empire over the King.—It is dated 20th of March,

March, 1773.—“ A circumstance is related, which the courtiers have collected with great care; and which proves that the influence and intimacy of Madam Dubarrè with the Royal Lover are not lessened, as some people supposed. His Majesty is fond of making his coffee himself; and amuses himself with these innocent occupations after the toils and cares of government. A few days ago, the coffee-pot was on the fire; and while his Majesty was meditating on something else, it happened to boil over.—“ France! France! exclaimed the favourite, your coffee is flying off. This appellation of *France* is, it is said, the familiar expression of that Lady in the private apartments: but those trifling matters, which should be confined to the place where they originate, are exaggerated by the malevolence of courtiers.”

THE last, and most complete proof of the permanent influence of Madam Dubarrè, was the eager zeal with which the Comptroller-general endeavoured to insinuate

ate himself, still more and more, into her favour, and the little regard he paid even to the Chancellor, whose consequence was lessened by this connection. He took upon himself the direction of her affairs; and, without absolutely laying open the pretended negociation, carried on in Rome for her divorce, he gave her to understand that the affair might be very tedious; and, at any rate, that it would be prudent in her to obtain a separation as to property and person, from her husband, in a legal and formal manner, in order to enable her to make securely, in her own name alone, whatever purchases she should think proper. Accordingly measures were concerted between the wife and the husband; and, as it is necessary in such cases, that the complaints should be preferred by one of the parties, it was alledged that the husband had abused his wife; and the principal charge was his having called her a w——e. Witnesses were suborned to prove those matters; and the separation was, in consequence, declared. Madam Dubarré, doubtless, did not apprehend that this separation

paration was an acknowledgment of the marriage, and deprived her of any pretence to the dissolution with which she had been flattered. He afterwards gradually led her to a knowledge of this; and, by that means, extricated the Duke d'Aiguillon and himself from any ill consequence. It was necessary to wait until the death of the Count, which the Countess was taught to look upon as very possible, as he was short, gross, a glutton, and drunkard; and, like another Sardanapalus, continually wallowed in debauchery. She was, therefore, more interested than ever in the preservation of the life of the Sovereign. She presided over the pleasures of the table, and prevented him from the too free indulgence of the glass. This put the Monarch out of humour sometimes; and one day that she exerted this freedom at Marli, rather indelicately and obstinately, the King was offended; but the affair ended in nothing.

BESIDES this attention of Madam Dubarrè, on the one hand, to restrain the King in pleasures that might be injurious, she

she had another task still more difficult. It was necessary to amuse him; she was continually studying to find out something new for this purpose. At a visit to Choisi she sent for Audinot, in order to perform with his children before his Majesty. Audinot took occasion from thence to insert in his bills, as follows: *The puppets of his Majesty will not appear at the theatre this day, as they are obliged to perform before the Court.* The most obscene entertainments were selected, and the whole terminated with a country-dance, called the Fricassée; one of the most indecent, known only to the rabble. All this gave infinite pleasure to the royal mistress. She laughed immoderately; she chid the King for not being equally delighted, and sometimes extorted a smile.

THE favourite was so desirous of maintaining her post, that she gave ear to the insinuations of the Abbé Terrai, who, the better to keep his own ground, took it into his head to introduce to the bed of his Majesty a certain Madam Amerval. This lady was a natural daughter he had by his

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former mistress Madam de Clercy. He had found means to get her married to the brother of the Baroness de la Garde, his second reputed mistress. The young lady, still a child in a manner, was delicate, sprightly and free. She appeared to him a very proper subject to enliven the Sovereign; but, considering that it would rather be hazardous to propose her himself, he very artfully interested Madam Dubarrè in the scheme, as the most effectual method of securing her influence would be, he said, to gratify the fickle appetite of a prince exhausted with debauchery, and follow the example of Madam Pompadour, whose success was owing to similar measures. Madam Amerval was of a disposition to please the Countess, and to contribute to her amusement and diversion. She readily admitted her among her attendants, and presented her with a rich diamond necklace. It is not really clear whether the King ever tasted this delicate piece; but, if he did, his passion was but momentary. There was no visible decrease in his affection to his mistress; on the contrary

trary it was, if possible, greater. But the Comptroller-general partly succeeded in his desires, and acquired a greater share of favour. He deprived the Chancellor of all hopes of a reconciliation with the mistress. The latter, sensible of the impossibility of resisting alone the storm that was gathering against him, endeavoured, in vain, to recover her friendship ; but he only succeeded with Miss Dubarrè, whose pliant and insinuating temper very much resembled his own ; and who, having no charms to gain admirers, was the more flattered to see the chief magistrate wear her chains : but this connection went no farther ; the sister-in-law was still irreconcilable : this made him consider his disgrace at no great distance.

IN the mean while reports were circulated, from time to time, of titles, &c. conferred on Madam Dubarrè. One time she was made Dutches of Roquelaure. It was continually given out that her nephew, Viscount Adolphus, would be appointed master of the horse ; the place of principal physician to her physician, the *Sieur Borden* ;

deu ; but none of these things took place. The only token of her influence over the Sovereign, and of the efficacy of her protection that then appeared, was in regard to the Prince of Beauveau, who seemed to be restored to favour by means of Madam Dubarrè. The lady of Marshal Mirepoix, sister to the Prince, being very intimate with the Countess, and in much favour with the King, on account of her readiness to conceal all his Majesty's pleasures, prevailed upon the favourite to interest herself for her brother. The reader will be pleased to recollect, that the latter had been deprived of the government of Languedoc, after his protest in the council held in April, 1771. In order to make him amends for the loss of his government, Madam Dubarrè procured him a yearly pension of 25,000 livres, until some considerable government should become vacant, of which he had the promise.

IF Madam Dubarrè, however, did not obtain any dignities, the reason was, perhaps, that she had but little desire for them.

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Vain and thoughtless as she was, her sole ambition centered in objects that she had constantly a passion for. Dress, jewels and pomp entirely engrossed her mind. Every morning she gave audience in bed to the artists, who came regularly to present her with the fruit of their invention and labours. No day passed that she did not purchase some piece, or give orders for another. Her thoughts, at this period, were taken up with ear-rings that she had ordered to be made, and which excited the curiosity of the public. This ornament consisted chiefly of a large diamond, and she had furnished one of so extraordinary size, that it was very difficult to match it. The ear-rings were valued at 80,000 livres. This unbounded passion of the favourite for trifles, gave rise to the following story, which was generally considered as authentic, both by the court and city.—It is thus related in the manuscript :

MAY the 7th, 1771. “ People, in general, talk of a trick a Jew played upon Madam Dubarrè. The lady had long owed him the sum of 20,000
L. 3 “ crowns,

“ crowns, about 2000 pounds, which he
“ could not prevail on her to pay. Some
“ few days ago he waited on her with a
“ jewel, that he thought likely to please
“ her. He did not stick out for a price,
“ and they agreed for 2000 crowns. She
“ endeavoured then to defer the payment
“ to another time; but he represented
“ that such a delay was impossible, as he
“ had the most urgent occasion for money.
“ As he did not even drop a hint
“ relative to what was already due to him,
“ the Countess desired him to draw a bill
“ on Beaujon (the banker of the Court)
“ for the sum agreed upon, and she would
“ sign it. This was what the cunning
“ Israelite expected. He drew the bill in
“ a hurry; but instead of 2000 crowns,
“ he made the order for 20,000, which
“ she signed in her bed, without ever examining it.
“ The banker, who was well acquainted with the signature, paid the
“ money as soon as the draught was presented;
“ but the first time he happened to see the favourite after, he made some
“ vague complaints about the late frequency

“quency of her draughts. As she had no
“idea of the last having been for more than
“2000 crowns, she treated it as a trifle
“too insignificant to merit notice. The
“banker, however, without any ceremony,
“observed, that the sum of 66,000
“livres was not such a trifling matter.
“This produced an explanation that made
“the Countess laugh as if she had been
“out of her senses, and she was so far from
“expressing any resentment against the Jew,
“that, on the contrary, she applauded
“him for his ingenuity. She was so pleased
“with the matter, that she was impatient
“until she had entertained his Majesty
“with the story.

“It appears,” adds the historian, “that
“all these little anecdotes do, in fact,
“amuse the Sovereign. He sups, almost
“every evening, with Madam Dubarré,
“and seems to be delighted more and
“more with her company. The latter,
“therefore, makes more frequent application
“to Monsieur Beaujon. The honour
“she has of enjoying the King in
“this manner, involves her in enormous

“ expences; and it is computed that she
“ has received from the above banker,
“ within a short while, 1,200,000 livres.
“ All this melts away like snow through
“ the hands of the magnificent Countess,
“ who is a stranger to any other use of
“ gold, but that of spending it nobly.”

WE know not whether these reflections were the mere flattery of the journalist, but they were just; nor has there ever been a mistress to any sovereign that has cost so much. But it was still more grievous to the state, that, besides her own immense profusion which was to be supported, she was, moreover, surrounded by agents and people, whose avarice must be supplied. She had lately, for example, engaged a person, named Montvallier, in order to regulate her expences, and superintend the household. This man, who had been often employed in the management of affairs, had capacity, but he wanted prudence, and had ruined himself; nor could he recover but by plunging his mistress into the greatest extravagancy. If Madam Dubarrè, however, expended more
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than the mistresses of ten sovereigns together, she always did so in a pleasing and noble manner. Thus she appeared at the review before his Majesty this year, in the greatest magnificence. The taste and elegance displayed in her dress, so far increased the splendor of her beauty, that she charmed all the men, and excited envy in the breasts of all those of her own sex.

A CIRCUMSTANCE was circulated soon after, that proves with what ease she could seduce and captivate her august lover. To effect this, she had only to give way to every extravagance that her imagination suggested. That natural disposition, that ease and freedom, unrestrained by any reserve, or, more properly speaking, that disregard to all decency and delicacy, never failed to succeed effectually with him. The anecdote here alluded to, relates to two of the gravest personages of the Court, the Nuncio and the Cardinal la Rocher-Ayeynon. The King was in the apartment of the Countess: she was in bed, where she usually lay the whole morning. The above prelates were complimenting the favourite,

out of respect to his Majesty. In the mean while, the *Sieur le Pot d'Auteuil* happened to come, in order to have a contract signed. She made some difficulty about admitting this member of the law before the Sovereign, until he desired it; she would get up, therefore; and, rising from her bed much in the same manner as *Venus* from the sea, she desired the two prelates to hand her slippers: each of them presented one, and, in return, were delighted with a view of her most secret charms. The notary departed, after having executed his commission; and before he had well recovered from his astonishment, related the adventure, which, as he added, had greatly diverted his Majesty. It is very evident, that the Marchioness of *Pompadour*, and all the other mistresses before her, would never have hazarded such a piece of extravagance; and, 'tis this, as we have recently observed, that made the company of this petulant beauty so delicious to the Prince. Besides, thus reserving for a *tête-a-tête*, or private little parties, this frolicsome humour

mour and levity, those expressions so full of energy, that wanton excess of gaiety, which could not offend coming from so pleasing an organ, though unbecoming her dignity, she was very capable, when it was necessary to make a ceremonious appearance; not only to be reserved, but to assume a different air and manner, and play her part with all the dignity of which it was susceptible. She enjoyed the taste of the Court; she whispered with all the grace imaginable, and, by this freedom, made herself amends for that constraint that is experienced by those who are obliged, as it were, to speak a new language.

THE part in which Madam Dubarrè really appeared awkward, was, in acting the politician. What could be more ridiculous than to see Mademoiselle l'Ange, surrounded by the Deputies of the Confederates of Poland, soliciting her to support them with her recommendation and interest with Lewis XV. to persuade him to give them greater succours, to shew them a more signal protection to go to war for them?

She had, in fact, supported them till then, with all her influence. She was betrayed into these measures by the flattering promises made her, by the hopes of a considerable fortune, estates and title, in that unhappy country. All these illusions, however, vanished on the division of that kingdom, which shewed her the folly of expectations. She had, besides, the mortification to meet with some reproaches from the King. In order to comprehend the reason of this, it is necessary to inform the reader, that his Majesty was much displeased with the proceedings in that country, especially for not being made acquainted with the division mentioned, which he only learned with the rest of Europe. France had for her ambassador at Vienna, at that time, Prince Lewis. 'Twas the royal mistress that procured him the appointment. This young prelate, more accustomed to treat with the ladies than statesmen, had suffered the whole plan, of the powers who had shared the division between them, to be carried on before his face, without sending any advice to his court,

court, and, probably, without having the least idea of it himself. The King was highly enraged; he recollected, with regret, the expulsion of the Duke of Choiseuil, and seemed to think, that if he had continued minister for foreign affairs, his politic designs would have prevented a coalition so disgraceful to France. He was frequently heard to cry out—“ Ah! if Choiseuil had been here, this would not have happened;” and, as Madam Dubarré had greatly contributed to his removal, the King’s resentment continually pointed at her. ’Twas she, likewise, who, in the room of the disgraced minister, had placed the Duke d’Aiguillon, under whom the treaty was concluded. It was necessary to give way to the anger of the Prince, and let it subside. His resentment and anger happily were but momentary. The only ill consequence that ensued to Madam Dubarré, on the occasion, was, to see excluded from the honour of the Blue Ribband those lords whom she protected, and particularly the Duke of Coëssé. This surprised

prised all those who were not in the secret of the Court.

THIS storm was no sooner blown over, than the happiness of the favourite was disturbed by wrangles with the royal family. She was not sufficiently cautious with regard to the King's daughters. 'Twas these princesses that mortified her on the present occasion. The King, to avoid any occasion of offence, or inconvenience to the princesses, resolved not to visit Marli this spring; because, as the Court is more confined and connected in that place, it would be more difficult to shun each other, and not very easy to reside there without a familiarity that requires the greatest harmony. Lady Adelaide, more particularly dissatisfied with the impertinent behaviour of the Countess, had her very severely treated by her orders, and sent her word, That if she forgot herself again so far before her, she would give immediate orders to have her turned out of company. His Majesty endeavoured to hush matters into peace, and exhorted the favourite

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rite to have more respect and consideration for his daughters.

THE monarch by new favours made his mistress atonement for the frequent mortifications she experienced from the royal family. She had occasion for a million of livres on account of some purchase she was about to make, and having a pension of 100,000 livres assigned her on the Hotel de Ville, which she had enjoyed several years, she requested and obtained an equivalent for this annuity ; that is, she received a million down, which did not however prevent her from retaining the pension of 100,000 livres. Monsieur Certain, who was to pay the money, having delayed it on account of some necessary form that was wanting, was under some apprehensions from the resentment of the lady, who was provoked against him by the insinuations of her people. He had the greater reason to fear, as she had more ancient motives of displeasure against him : she had lodged in his house, when she went by the name of Miss l'Ange, and lived with the Count Dubarré ; and had often,
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by her levity and mirth provoked the complaints of her landlord. In short, circumstances not having permitted the Abbé Terrai to give the decree of council that was absolutely necessary for the disbursement, he suffered it to be registered as an act of necessity, and the affair was then settled, without any other ill consequence to the payer. It has never been known to what use this million has been applied; the estate of Genlis, for the purchase it was destined, was sold to the Duke of Villequier.

Thus the dissolution of the marriage of Madam Dubarrè, which, as it was pretended, must precede the purchases she should in future make, became absolutely useless. She had neither lands nor house; she contented herself with adorning her lodge at Lucienne, which the curious crowded to see; but it was not open to every one; it was by a particular favour that people were admitted into that repository of voluptuousness. The place merits a description.

THIS

THIS building was planned by Monsieur Le Doux, a young architect, who with great talents for decorations, has fine ideas ; but they are sometimes irregular, and he is not always careful to preserve a proper uniformity, which is essential in every work. The lodge is a square with five windows on every side ; it is situated on a considerable eminence, whence is enjoyed one of the richest and most extensive prospects. The river, winding about the foot of the hill in the form of a horseshoe, contributed not a little to improve the pleasing scene : before the house is a court-yard, perhaps of too great extent for the building, the entrance to which is supported by four columns in a plain and antique taste ; the bases are ornamented with a basso relievo of the Sieur Le Comte, representing Bacchanalians. The interior consists of a hall for dining, with a fire-place on the left, and a place for holding clothes ; and on the right, a parlour with another on each side ; there is no apartment for sleeping : In the hall are four small boxes for the musicians belonging to the Countess ; as
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she had for some time a band to herself. There is an inconvenient sameness in the distribution of the whole, that does no honour to the invention and taste of the *Sieur le Doux*. The most celebrated artists have endeavoured to enrich this delightful residence with their labours. The ceiling of one of the side-rooms was executed by Briard; the motto is *Ruris Amor*, in English, *the love of the country*. The pleasures of the country are there represented: on the other side is painted an imperfect sky, and four large pieces by Fragonard; these describe the amours of the shepherds, and seem to be an allegory of the adventures of the mistress of the place. They are not as yet finished. There are some fine pieces of sculpture; they are as yet but models, which are to be executed in marble. Art, however appears to have less exerted itself in masterpieces of the sublime here than in miniature ornaments, such as chimney-pieces, fire-places, sconces, girandoles, chandeliers, cornishes, gildings, and goldsmith's works, locks, bolts, &c. every
part

part of which is so exquisitely finished that they might all be exhibited as models of perfect workmanship. While the spectator admires so many trifling and finical beauties, he is reminded that the place is too insignificant for the favourite of a great king; that there is too great a display of affectation, pomp and extravagance for a private person; and the only idea that occurs at the view of such a contrast is, that we are in a little house, every part of which discovers the owner. The King at the time of this description, had supped but thrice at this elegant lodge, and the third time it was observed, the pleasures were soon over, his Majesty having returned to Versailles at half after eleven.

No calculation can be made of the cost of this bauble, where every thing is whim, and of no value, but in the avidity of the artist, and the folly of the proprietor. At the time this narrative was written, people went to view a particular piece that was to be placed at Lucienne Lodge, as no inconsiderable ornament. This was the portrait of a little girl, whom every person
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believed to be a daughter of Madam Dubarrè, because she had been placed at St. Elizabeth with the mother of the Countess; and she was besides very handsome. She was known in the convent by no other name but that of Pierrot, on account of her arch tricks. She was about the age of ten or eleven. The favourite was very fond of her, and had her painted by the *Sieur Drouais*, in order to place the portrait over a door in the Lodge.

THE public was, no doubt, greatly scandalized at the luxury and extravagance of the favourite; but the insolence of her brother-in-law was still more intolerable. He had lately purchased a small house at Sceau, which belonged to Count d'Eu. This Prince, being dissatisfied with the former possessor, had cut off the waters from him. The new proprietor, however, thought that he should find no difficulty to recover that from his Highness. He impudently went to his hotel, without giving notice to any of the officers, or having any introduction, from a supposition that his name was sufficient to introduce him.

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The Count d'Eu received him very coldly, though he pretended to know his Highness, and to have seen him at Court. The Prince made answer, That he seldom appeared there, affected to be an entire stranger to him, and asked him who he was. As soon as Dubarré mentioned his name, his Highness turned his back upon him, and left him in the most mortifying manner. The latter revenged himself soon after for the affront, upon persons of less consideration. He went to the Board of Customs, and desired the place of Inspector of the Customs of Paris to be given to the Sieur Dessen, though it had been granted before to the Sieur Chomat, upon the promotion of Monsieur la Perrière to the rank of Farmer-general. The Board represented, That it was impossible to remove a man who was regularly admitted, without advancing him. He persisted, adding, That he should not have waited on them about common matters. As they began to start new difficulties, he raised his voice, and asked them, If they did not know that it was He who had the honour
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of giving a mistress to the King, who made Duke d'Aiguillon minister for foreign affairs ; Monsieur de Boynes, minister of the marine department, and who supported the Chancellor, the Comptroller-general, &c. ? He advised them to be cautious how they provoked him. This unprecedented behaviour so far confounded those ministers of Plutus, that they did not venture to make any reply ; but consented to whatever he devised.

THE story got wind, and occasioned enquiries. It was actually known that the Duke d'Aiguillon was on the most intimate footing with him, so as to be a frequent mediator between him and his mistress, Madam de Murat, whom we have frequently mentioned. This lady was the daughter of a Monsieur Fontaine, a Swiss officer of bad character. She could not endure her lover, who was disagreeable and ugly ; and though he allowed her 4000 livres per month, they had frequent disputes and quarrels, and the Duke generally made up matters between them. The
Father

Father Fontaine shewed letters to prove this.

It is very certain, that all the ministers were greatly dependant on this family. The arch behaviour of Madam Dubarré to Monsieur de Boifnes, while the Court was at Compeigne, gave rise immediately to the report of his disgrace. He was come to pay his respects to the favourite, who did not relish his magisterial gravity : she was rather gay at this time. As he retired, after having paid his compliments, and was turning his back, she put out her tongue. It was then immediately declared, that he should not hold his place. However, this was nothing but an arch frolic, that at bottom contained no hatred to the minister ; it was only like the stroke of a whip that made him more submissive, and more zealous to comply with the desires of the family of Dubarré. He gave the Consulship of Petersburg to the Sieur Hannon, who was the second agent to the pleasures of the Great Dubarré after the Sieur Disant. He paid no respect to the complaints of the other Consuls, who were
enraged

enraged to have a man of so infamous a character among them, and who was recently become an object of public reproach from the adventure of his wife, who had endeavoured to make her charms instrumental in cheating one of her gallants.

WITH regard to the Abbé Terrai, scarce a day passed but he was obliged to shew his submission by pecuniary grants. The husband, after his separation as to property, had been complimented with a pension of 60,000 livres in the Dutchy of Roquelaure, where he was desired to reside, in order to remove him from Paris again; either because there was no further occasion for his presence, as he was permitted to return only while the dissolution of the marriage was effecting; or that it was impossible to reform his scandalous life. As to the brother-in-law, he had the Marquisate of Lille, worth 103,000 livres per annum. This estate, which was situated in one of the finest climates, that is Languedoc, was crown lands; it was granted to Count John in exchange, the better to secure
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possession to him. In short, the Comptroller-general procured the Countess 100,000 crowns out of the powder-works which he had lately established. It was said, that he had, at first, a strong inclination to appropriate this perquisite to himself: but as it was not a usual thing, and that it had made a great noise at Court; that the King had been informed of the affair by the officious Chancellor, who did not omit to prejudice the Minister, by artfully provoking the Sovereign; and that the Minister, fearful of the ill consequences that might thence result to himself, had immediately come to a resolution, waited on Madam Dubarrè, and communicated the matter as if it had been done for her; so that when the King visited his mistress, in order to reproach her with the insatiable avarice of her friend, the Abbé Terrai, whom she defended with so much zeal, she only laughed; and so effectually supported his cause, that she proved to his Majesty, that all that been said against her friend, was nothing but downright calumny and malice: and the conclusion was, the

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convinced the King, that the minister of the finances was a most admirable, and agreeable man ; and one who had the most extraordinary talents for resources and supplies.

THE minister who superintended the affairs of Paris, and the lieutenant-general of the Police, were both equally obliged to exert their zeal to prevent the introduction of a book, the title of which alone alarmed the favourite. It was—*Authentic Memoirs of the Countess Dubarrè, Mistress to Lewis XV. King of France : extracted from a Manuscript, in the possession of the Dutches of Villeroy, written by the Chevalier —, 1772 ; and translated from the English.* This new pamphlet, brought to Paris from Holland and England, every body read ; but it was far from pleasing the readers of taste. Nothing could be more low or disgusting ; it was a mere rhapsody of words, and commonplace observations, very poorly written. The few facts it contained were equally applicable to every prostitute as to the heroine. There was not a single anecdote that had the least appearance of truth. The
author

author must have had an extraordinary reliance on the credulity of the public, to have ventured to print such a heap of extravagancies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general abject condescension of the ministers, the insolent behaviour of Count Dubarré at the Board of Customs, which was known all over Paris, was not at all pleasing to them; they thought it exceedingly wrong that he should expose their meanness by the freedom of his remarks concerning them. They complained of his conduct to the Countess, who was already tired of the importunities of a family that engrossed all favours to themselves. Some people imagined that she was not sorry that an opportunity was given her of getting free from her governor for a time. In conjunction with the ministers, she gave him to understand that it would be prudent in him to remove, under pretence of visiting his Earldom of Lille; to go there, and learn *to turn his tongue seven times in his mouth, before he attempted to speak*. Such were her exact words, as we are assured. It was added, that the bro-

ther-in-law, not having paid a proper respect to the request, received orders more peremptory and severe, which it was necessary to obey.

His absence, though not long, cost the Count, however, dear ; as, by that means, he was deprived of the Marchioness of Murat. She had taken this title from the time of her marriage. She would not follow her lover to his estate, because she had no regard for him. She laid hold, therefore, of the first opportunity she had of recovering her liberty, and disappeared at the same time that the Count was banished. This affair made a great noise in the circle of gallantry. People formed a thousand conjectures. The most general opinion was, that she had entered into keeping with the *Sieur de Mouville*, the financier, so famous among the ladies for his elegance and luxury, as well as natural and acquired talents, which made him one of the most amiable and accomplished gentlemen in Paris. He, however, affected to shew himself in all places ; and this circumstance only helped to strengthen the suspi-

suspicious of men of penetration. His secrecy they attributed to his fears of experiencing the fate of Monsieur Dampierre, who had formerly worn the chains of this lady; and happening to meet her at a ball at the Opera-house, while she lived with Monsieur Dubarrè, had excited so far the jealousy of the latter, that he was obliged to retire to the West Indies. He was therefore cautious, until the forsaken lover should forget, in the arms of a new mistress, the infidelity of the former. Among those who were supposed to have carried her off, Monsieur de Martanges, the field-mareschal and secretary-general for the Swiss and Grisons, was reckoned. Many others were mentioned; and some were so romantic in their notions as to pretend, that a correspondence had been kept up between Miss Fontaine, and her quondam admirer, Monsieur Dampierre, for whom Monsieur Dubarrè had procured a place in the colonies, with orders to depart immediately, was now privately returned with a design to deliver her from

the tyranny of his rival, and take her abroad with him.

THE destiny of the fair fugitive was a long time unknown. She wrote to the *Sieur Deffaint*, the favourite of the Count, and for whom he had been guilty of the indiscretion at the Board of Customs, as we have already related. The contents of the letter were made public, and are as follows :

Letter to Mr. Deffaint, Inspector of the Customs of Paris.

“ I BEG of you, Sir, to inform the Count
“ Dubarrè of my resolution to be separated from him. Let him not consider my elopement as an act of perfidy, or ingratitude. I never loved him, or considered him in any other light but that of a tyrant. I suffered his caresses, but never returned them. I received his favours without desiring them. His violence, and his passion, forced me to submit to the former, and made me pay too dear for the latter. I seize
“ the

“ the first opportunity that offers of being
 “ explicit, and telling him ingenuously that
 “ I detest him; and that I never enter-
 “ tained any other sentiments. In a word,
 “ he is to me a monster of the most hor-
 “ rible kind.

“ FORGIVE me, Sir, that I trouble you
 “ with this commission; but you are his
 “ friend, and are acquainted with our
 “ agreement; and, therefore, I thought
 “ it best to write to you.”

Paris, 15th August, 1774.

THE Count found it no easy matter to digest the harsh severity of this letter. He made every enquiry, in order to discover the retreat of Madam de Murat, and he was sometime before he got one to supply her place. His vanity was first soothed by the condescension of his Majesty, who was pleased so far to interest himself in the elopement of Madam de Murat, as to enquire if he began to recover from his affliction; and whether any new mistress consoled, and helped him to forget the old?

THE ceremony of taking down the wood-work of the arches of the bridge of Neuilly, which was done in the absence of the brother-in-law, gave the public occasion to see that his disgrace did not at all affect his sister-in-law. Such an entertainment seemed naturally calculated for the royal family, and especially the Dauphiness. Madam Dubarrè was sensible that she should be eclipsed, in case the Princesses appeared there; she, therefore, made the first application, and having obtained leave to accompany the King in a public manner, the royal family thought it would be improper for them to be present at the ceremony. In order to amuse the credulity of fools, it was said, that the Princesses, from a recollection of the massacre in the street called Rue Royale, had entreated the King to dispense with their attendance. They had an office performed that day at Versailles for the Queen, and the Dauphin went to hunt to Ruel in the neighbourhood of Neuilly. Thus the favourite was sole mistress of all the honours on the occasion. She arrived a little before
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the King. She was accompanied in the coach by the Lady of Marshal Mirepoix, the Dutcheſs d'Aiguillon, and the Count de la Marche, who ſat beſide her. He was the only prince of the blood who could be preſent, the reſt being ſtill baniſhed the Court. The King followed ſoon after, when the lovers immediately joined company, and examined the place together. Our narrative ſays, that his Maſteſty, in expectation of finding ſome plans, being taken up with examining the different bridges, both ancient and modern, that were moſt famous in Europe, ſaid, viewing the bridge, called the Holy Ghoſt, *Here is one that has been built by the devil,* (this was the vulgar tradition of the country.) “ Fie,” exclaimed Madam Dubarré, “ what a ſhocking bridge! Who can think of paſſing over it? I am determined never to do ſo.” The whole ceremony ended in this manner. The Counteſs never quitted the King. The Count de la Marche continually attended her as her ſquire, and the day was concluded no leſs gloriouſly for her, as ſhe had the honour of his

Majesty's company at supper at her Lodge at Lucienne.

THIS triumph of Madam Dubarrè completed the aversion of the royal family. The Count of Provence had till then behaved in a polite manner towards her; he visited her, he treated her with decency, which had displeased the Dauphin, and occasioned a coolness between the two brothers; the latter took advantage of the late circumstance in order to detach him entirely from the favourite: he insinuated, that the affront offered to the Dauphiness, in excluding her from an entertainment that should have been reserved for her, reflected on the Countess of Provence, as the insolence of Madam Dubarrè had equally deprived that princess of an amusement which she would have been glad to share in; she shewed him the necessity of their uniting together, in order to prevent the consequences of her design, in keeping the king from any intercourse with his family. It was added, that this discourse had made an impression on the prince, and that he promised never more to visit the favourite.

favourite. She enjoyed a satisfaction at Fontainebleau, that would be of little consequence to another, but was of great moment with her, on account of her passion and taste for splendor and magnificence. Upon her arrival there, she found entire new furniture with which his Majesty had adorned the apartments of his mistress: It was greatly admired; nothing could be more sumptuous or elegant; every part of it alluded to the charms of the divinity who was to inhabit there; nor could the poets in the descriptions of the palaces of Venus of Idalia, &c. conceive any thing more delightful or enchanting; it was affirmed to have cost a million of livres. The Countess wished to have it removed to Lucienne; she requested that permission of the King, but could not obtain it, because his Majesty probably was willing, if possible, to have something of greater perfection invented.

AN affair that happened during this excursion inflamed the resentment of the favourite against the royal family, and was a fresh proof of her ascendancy over the

sovereign. The Duke of Coffé, who commanded the King's guard called the Hundred Swiss, conceived the design of dressing his son in a uniform, though he had lately laid aside the petticoat, and of introducing him in that habit to his Majesty. The father, who was entirely devoted to the Countess, had previously informed her of his design, and she promised herself great pleasure from such a sight. Madam d'Alours, one of the ladies who attended on the Dauphiness, and was then actually in waiting, notwithstanding the intimacy between her husband and Madam Dubarrè, refused to see her, from her natural repugnance to adulation and meanness, as well as from her attachment to her mistress. As soon as her son was equipped in the military garb in question, she made it a duty to entertain the Princess with the little soldier. Her Royal Highness, unwilling to enjoy this pleasure alone, the Countess of Provence, and the rest of the princesses, &c. were complimented in the same manner. Madam Dubarrè being informed of this, and desirous of the same compliment,

ment, requested the Duke to have the children introduced to her likewise by the mother, which he could not prevail with his wife to do, notwithstanding all his intreaties. The favourite was so provoked at this mark of contempt, that she vowed the little Swiss guard, Jules, should never be received by the King; and his Majesty was actually out of humour, and refused to admit him, unless it should be agreeable to the favourite. This childish ceremony was in this manner prevented, to the great regret and disappointment of the Duke of Coiffé, who was in hopes of some favour as a recompence for the invention.

DURING the same visit to Fontainbleau, the favourite, on a certain occasion, acted so childish and ridiculous a part, that the courtiers laughed heartily behind her back. The affair was this: His Majesty staid so late at a hunt, that night came on. Madam Dubarré was in the greatest anxiety about the Sovereign; she assembled all her dependants and creatures; her fears and alarms increased every moment: at length, however, her august lover returned.

ed. She ran to him, with tears in her eyes ; she communicated what she had suffered from her apprehensions, and tenderly reproached him for his long stay. The King did not seem to be much affected by the farce ; he coldly made answer to his mistress, that having found the evening so pleasant and fine, he sauntered along the banks of the river, and amused himself with his courtiers.

THE favourite experienced another degree of coldness, which shewed her that all her days were not to be unclouded. She interested herself, with the utmost zeal, for the *Sieur Radix de Santefois*, a financier, who had formerly enjoyed her favours, and had purchased them generously. The place of treasurer-general of the *marine*, which he occupied a few years, had been suppressed. Endeavours were now used to establish the place again in his favour. The *Abbé Terrai* concurred in the measure. He proposed the affair to the Sovereign, never imagining that it would meet with any difficulty. The application unhappily, however, was made at a
wrong

wrong time. His Majesty observed, that there was nothing but doing and undoing; and that he was continually solicited to make alterations, even in the most trifling matters. The minister was not so zealous in the cause, as to urge it farther. He acquainted the mistress with what had passed, and extricated himself from any reproach by a compliment. He told her, that it would be best to wait for a more favourable opportunity, which matters must soon produce, and then she would have only to make use of it. And, indeed, the ill humour of his Majesty never was of long continuance. He restored joy to the breast of his mistress by a piece of agreeable news he communicated soon after. The affair was this. His Majesty had a long conference in private with the Duke de Vrilliere, with whom he had been closetted above an hour. The courtiers were the more perplexed to know the reason of this *tête à tête*, as the result of such business was generally known within an hour after; but, on the present occasion, nothing transpired; and even the Sunday after, when

when it was expected the mystery would be unravelled, they were kept still in the dark. The favourite alone was let into the secret: The King immediately informed her, that he had just come from settling a plan for the household of the Count d'Artois, and that he had determined that the Chevalier Dubarrè, her other brother-in-law, should be colonel of the bodyguards to his grandson; but that it must not be made known before matters were ripe, and until his nuptials with a lady whom he had fixed upon for his consort. The affair, however, could not be kept a secret from the Count d'Artois. It was afterwards known that he had written a letter to his grandfather on the occasion; and although it was written with great freedom and spirit, it gave no offence; but his Majesty suspecting that the Prince himself was not the author, desired to know who had dictated it. He acknowledged that it was his aunt, Madam Adelaide: and this circumstance could not fail to ferment the dissention between the favourite and the royal family.

SOME

SOME courtiers, in order to shew their respect, and make themselves useful to the latter, made, about this time, a fresh attempt to introduce another mistress to the bed of Lewis XV. There was an intriguing female styled Baronefs of Neukerque, formerly called Madam Pater, whose charms had made so much noise about ten years before. The party that was inimical to the Countess, imagined the Baronefs was formed to supplant her, and threw her in the way of the Sovereign. The Duke of Duras, a gentleman of the bed-chamber, was supposed to have been the principal agent in managing the interview. The piece, though not French, was, however inviting, and very capable of rousing the feelings of an exhausted debauchee. It is probable that the King enjoyed her, or, at least, intended it; for this intrigue was carried on so secretly, that it still continued to the hour of his death. It appears that the faction who supported this German lady, was numerous and powerful; and that the Duke of Choiseuil, directing from Chanteloup his friend the Duke of Duras, who

who was a man of no great art, had secretly a great hand in the intrigue; and it is impossible to say what might have ensued, had not circumstances prevented the conclusion.

WHILE this secret intrigue engrossed the attention of the courtiers, an affair that happened in the city furnished matter of conversation and mirth to the public. In order to explain this matter, we must turn back to the former period.

THE mother of Madam Dubarrè had a sister of the name of Cantini, a widow, incumbered with five children. She had formerly been a hawker; but, after the promotion of her niece, was forbid to continue that business. It was the intention of Madam Dubarrè that she should be allowed a pension of 1200 livres. She even thought it was paid her; but Madam Cantini complained that she actually received no more than 600. Among the five children was the young girl, whom we have already mentioned by the name of the little *Pierot*, and whom her cousin-german had absolutely taken under her care.

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One of the remaining four was a boy, named Augustus, of the age of 17: he was arch and sharp; but, for want of proper education, was idle and worthless. Being in company with another of the same stamp, and little accustomed to delicacies, he felt a strong inclination to taste of a roast fowl that lay exposed on a board before a cook's shop. They concerted the following scheme to get possession of it. One of them running, as it were by accident, threw it down; the other took it up, and went off with it as fast as his heels could carry him. The cook pursued them, and seized Augustus, who had purposely slackened his pace, in order to give an opportunity to his comrade to escape with the fowl. The artful young rogue struggled with the cook, declaring, That it was no fault of his, if another had taken his fowl, and vowed and swore he had not the least acquaintance with him. The guard, however, was called, and Augustus seeing the affair growing serious, and that they were going to fetter him, he assumed an air of consequence, and advised the guards
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to take care what they did ; but finding his threats were disregarded, he made himself known, by telling them, that he was a cousin-german to Madam Dubarrè. They would not believe him, but conducted him before a magistrate. He persisted in his declaration so strongly, that the justice, before he proceeded in the affair, enquired where the boy's mother lived, and sent for her. Mistress Cantini, as soon as she was informed how matters stood, fainted away. When she came to herself, she was brought before the justice more dead than alive. She desired to speak with him in private, and then laid open her perplexed situation, with respect to the orders she had received not to make known her family-connections, which were, however, exactly conformable to what he had been already told. The prudent magistrate detained the young man in his own house, and immediately wrote to Count John, who sent him for answer, that he might set the boy at liberty, and restore him to the mother ; but, in a few days, people were sent after him, and he was placed at St. Lazare, which

which he left only because his pension was not paid; nor would he have been allowed to depart so, but for the interposition of his godfather, who was a man of some credit. The same protector made the Dubarrès so far ashamed of this adventure, that the young lad was at length provided for in the East Indies.

THE conclusion of the year 1772, and the beginning of 1773, were the most glorious periods of the life of the favourite, as the return of the princes to Court made them bow to her authority, in order to please the King, to whom they had been lately reconciled; and the ministers were more rampant than ever before her, from their apprehension of the storm which they imagined was now actually gathering over their heads. In the beginning of December, the Prince of Condé, and the Duke of Bourbon his son, were restored to the royal favour by a letter of submission. The Dukes of Orleans and Chartres soon after followed this example in every particular; for the former, after paying their respect to all the royal family,

ly, did not neglect to visit the favourite with the like ceremony; and this mean condescension, on their part, was not looked upon as any thing very extraordinary. The family was more provoked at the behaviour of the latter. It is, indeed, true, that they were particularly invited; for as they were coming out from the King the third time, after having complied with the usual ceremonies, the Duke d'Aiguillon followed, and told them, That if their Highnesses wished to perform a thing highly pleasing to the King, they would pay a compliment in person to the Countess Dubarrè. The Duke of Orleans made answer for both; That they should be happy to give every proof of their zeal and attachment to his Majesty; and they immediately waited on the favourite. The Duke of Orleans was grave and serious on the occasion; the Duke of Chartres behaved with great freedom, as if he was in the company of a girl of easy virtue. He sat on one arm of the chair of Madam Dubarrè, and toyed with her; nor was this familiarity displeasing to her. She made herself
amends

amends with the Prince of Condé, who, by his pliancy and submission, seemed to encourage her to a greater degree of impertinence towards him. He often paid his respects to her since his appearance at Versailles. The first time, he carried his extravagant complaisance so far, as to ask her at what hour she would be ready to receive visitants; and she actually appointed the time. This Prince, afterwards, throwing off all restraint, came to wait on her without the same ceremony: she reminded him, as it were, of his duty, by making his Highness wait some time before she admitted him. Besides, she had another pique to this Prince for having effected his reconciliation without her knowledge, in a manner, and by means of the Count de le Marche, who directed the Chancellor. It was this, in fact, that engaged her to unite with the Duke d'Aiguillon, in order to strengthen their party, which was weakened by the weight acquired by the other side; and to counterbalance and preponderate, she assisted the latter with the Sovereign, and induced his Majesty to receive

receive the Duke of Orleans upon a letter much less submissive than that of the Prince of Condé.

THE receivers-general alone had paid their compliments to Madam Dubarré on the new year 1772. The farmers-general copied their example the year following, and sought the same honour. They enjoyed one still greater, as his Majesty was present at their introduction. She was quite gay.—“Gentlemen,” said he, pointing to his mistress, “there is one of the greatest smugglers in the kingdom; you would do well to arrest her.”

A JEST of this nature, delivered by his Majesty in the presence of his subjects, on so solemn an occasion, would have been sufficient to shew all Paris the extravagance of his passion, had it not been notorious. The Duke of Orleans was so far convinced of this truth, that he had thoughts of making use of her influence, in order to repair the injuries done to the state. As she had been the cause of the evil, he wished the remedy to come from her likewise. She was given to understand, that she should

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turn against the Chancellor and his system, the same instruments which he had employed to accomplish it; that is, in some excursion at one of those Bacchanalian entertainments in which the King delighted, she should take advantage of those moments when his Majesty, having drowned the cares of royalty in wine, and intoxicated with the bewitching charms of the bottle, would be ready to sign whatever might be suggested. This was a contradiction that might, perhaps, prove disagreeable to him in a more serious hour. He would, however, hereafter be made sensible of the necessity of those measures. The authors of this design were in hopes they had gained over the Countess; and they waited for the journey to Belle Vue with impatience, which was the first of the kind. It passed, however, without success: that of Choisi in the same manner; and several others. It was known that the Abbé Terrai, who endeavoured to preserve an interest with both parties, but was really a friend to that of the Chancellor, had dissuaded Madam Dubarré from so dangerous

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a proceeding, which succeeded the first time, and might ruin her the second. She contented herself with pressing the King in a loyal and open manner to concur in the designs of the Duke d'Aiguillon, who, in conjunction with the family of Orleans, and the rest of the ministers, solicited the total restoration of the parliament; but an error, which that minister discovered when it was too late, ruined the whole proceedings: the error lay in his endeavour to annihilate, with the same blow, both the Chancellor, and his measures, while the one supported the other.

MADAM Dubarrè was made a party in those affairs against her inclinations. Politics were not her taste; she found more pleasure in her endeavours to amuse the Sovereign. A new actress, whom all Paris then admired, attracted her greatest attention. This theatrical heroine was young and handsome; she was desirous of introducing her to his Majesty.—She had nothing to fear from such a rival, and she rather looked upon her as a proper instrument to assist her in rousing the languish-
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ing and exhausted nature of her royal lover. She succeeded. His Majesty was so condescending as to stay out the whole representation of Dido, in which Mademoiselle Raucoux, so the actress was called, performed a part. Madam Dubarré introduced her afterwards to his Majesty in a little apartment that had a communication with the King's box, where the Prince retired with his mistress during the entertainment, to indulge themselves with the private amusements and pleasures of lovers. We are ignorant of what passed therein. We may, indeed, presume that the royal lecher gave a loose to all those desires of the flesh which so tempting and blooming an object excited; for after the interview, she departed laden with favours, both from the master and favourite. The advice of the latter, who exhorted her to be discreet, appeared laughable, and was a farther argument to believe that the actress had pleased his Majesty.

A TRAGICAL affair that happened in the beginning of the year, at the house of Madam Dubarré, gave her a shock for the

moment, and might have produced dangerous fits but for the great dissipation in which she lived. She had for her principal attendant, a person named Adelaide, of whom mention has been already made. This woman, who was married to a valet de chambre and hair-dresser by trade, whose name was Langibeau, and who, in consequence of this match, was promoted to a considerable place in the treasury. Notwithstanding this good fortune, the man was so unhappy with his wife, who was a perfect shrew and fury, that not being able to leave her, as his whole fortune depended on her, in a fit of despondency, he threw himself out of a window in the house of the Countess where he lived, and was killed on the spot. The accident could not be concealed from her, and made her melancholy for several days.

ANOTHER affair, less tragical, but more personal, affected Madam Dubarrè.—At the close of the year, rhimes are generally made, in which the Court is criticised. The most scandalous anecdotes of gallantry and politics are related in those rhimes.

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There appeared some at this time, which though not very pointed, were, however, extremely mortifying, on account of the truths they contained. There are never wanting ill-natured persons to communicate those satirical jokes to the parties that are concerned in them. The favourite received her packet; which was, in fact, less disgraceful to her than to the princes.—

It was easy to see, that the object of these rhimes was to cherish a dissention between the two branches of the princes of the blood, by shewing the two methods by which the reconciliation with the Sovereign had been made. Many persons were, therefore, of opinion, that they originated from the Chancellor, on account of the degrading terms with which the opposite faction was treated, and particularly the Duke d'Aiguillon. And, indeed, it redoubled the hatred and fury of the latter, and the favourite against him. The intimacy of this minister with Madam Dubarrè, naturally produced great friendship between her and the Dutchess d'Aiguillon. The latter, in order to please her husband,

paid assiduous court to the former. Their familiarity was so great, that, on a certain occasion, it was the cause of much perplexity to the Dutchess. She happened to be with her friend when a new robe was brought home to her. As it is the custom with ladies, and more particularly with those of the Court, she greatly praised and admired it. This was so flattering to Madam Dubarrè, that she made the Dutchess repeat her approbation several times. After this, she threw her into a great dilemma, by insisting on her acceptance of the robe, as a mark of friendship : that as she had never put it on, she did not see why the Dutchess should make any difficulty about it. The latter, in great confusion, thanked her, and endeavoured to excuse herself by observing, that the robe, though very becoming to the Countess, on account of her youth and beauty, would be quite unsuitable to an old woman like her. She was still at a loss how to extricate herself, when the King appeared. The complimentary contest still subsisting, the favourite appealed to the justice of his Majesty ;
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and the King determined in favour of his mistress, which afforded ample mirth to the courtiers.

As a farther proof of their intimacy, the Duke d'Aiguillon and the Countess Dubarrè mutually made entertainments for each other. This was much commended by one party, and criticised by the other. In that which was given by the former, much notice was taken of a *fête champêtre*, in which a black serpent was introduced; and malicious people pretended that the Chancellor was designed under this emblem. The King himself, who was unconcerned, and laughed at every thing, rallied Monsieur de Maupeou about it. The latter, sensible of the ill tendency of such things, was so far out of humour, that he severely reproached the Abbé Sisenon, who had projected most of the entertainments. It was, in fact, more indecent for that author, as he had, but a year before, composed some verses in praise of the Chief Justice, whom he now so grievously offended.

THE entertainment given by Madam Dubarrè was, as we may suppose, more splendid and magnificent. His Majesty, however, did not appear at it ; which was some mortification to her. There were four different representations, and about a hundred players, singers and dancers, from the three theatres. A variety of pleasing incidents had been invented to surprise, and all calculated to express the powerful charms of that lady. Among others, mention was made of a large ostrich egg, that was found, as it were, by accident in the midst of the apartment. The Countess was called, as if it was only to shew her this sudden phenomenon. She had scarce approached, when it opened, and emitted a Cupid completely armed ; and this was contrived to express, that a single glance of her's gave birth to love. In another interlude, the god loses his bandage or fillet, in order to shew the penetration of his Majesty in the choice of his mistress. It is obvious, that not only this entertainment, which was called Madam Dubarrè's, because she had been at the expense,

penice, but likewise that of the Duke, were entirely calculated to honour the goddess of the day.

ANOTHER anecdote that happened in consequence of the entertainments, was truly laughable; and is not the least curious in the life of the Countess.

THE Marchioness of Rozen, one of the attendants of the Countess of Provence, had for some time past paid assiduous court to Madam Dubarrè. The latter liked her much; and they became intimate friends. The Marchioness was young and handsome, and had the air of a child. This observation is necessary. The favourite did not neglect to invite her to the entertainment. Madam Rozen went; but shortly after broke off all connection with her friend, or at least, shewed a great coolness. This was probably owing to the princess, whom she had the honour to serve, who had severely reproached her for her attention to a female, so much the subject of public censure; and especially for her being noticed by the Court, as being present at her entertainments. Whatever might have

been the cause, the Countess was not insensible to the change. She complained to the King, who made a jest of the matter, saying, The Marchioness was but a child, for whom a rod was the fittest punishment. Madam Dubarrè took the King's words in the literal, and most rigorous sense. Madam de Rozen called upon her one morning, and after they had breakfasted in a friendly manner together, the favourite invited her into her closet, as if she had something particular to tell her. That moment four lusty chambermaids seized upon the poor criminal, and whipped her soundly. The sufferer boiling with rage, complained to the sovereign, who had nothing to reply when the mistress reminded him, that she had no more than executed the sentence of his Majesty. He concluded with laughing at the affair, and Madam Rozen, by the advice of the Duke d'Aiguillon, revisited the Countess; after some raillery on the flagellated posteriors, which made known and confirmed the anecdote; the two friends embraced, and agreed to
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bury all in oblivion. But the public never forget such things; nor was the matter forgotten by the Countess of Provence. Happily for Madam Dubarrè, that Princess had it not in her power to shew her resentment. The Dauphiness seemed desirous of expressing hers, only by a trick consistent with her youth, and sprightly disposition. Knowing that the favourite had ordered a jeweller to make up a diamond aigrette, of the most elegant kind; and being informed of the day when the artist was to carry it home, she set people to watch his coming; the moment he appeared, he was ordered to wait upon the Princess directly, without giving him time to execute the orders of the favourite. The Dauphiness affected an entire ignorance of the workman's business; and mentioned in general terms her desire of having a diamond aigrette, made in the richest and most exquisite taste possible. He expressed his readiness and zeal to serve the Princess; and the better to convince her Highness of his abilities, to execute

the order, he shewed her a model in that which he was carrying to the Countess. The Dauphiness admired it, put it on, and observed that it became her very well, and she would keep it. The jeweller was greatly perplexed how to behave; she seeing his uneasiness, asked him the reason of it, and he was obliged to acknowledge the truth. The Princess desired him to be under no apprehensions, as she would take the matter on herself. In this manner she waited on her grandfather, asked his Majesty how he liked her dress, and particularly his opinion with regard to the aigrette. The King greatly extolled it; upon which she informed him of the trick she had played Madam Dubarré: he laughed at and commended the joke; and went immediately to banter the Countess about the matter.

SOME satirical verses were circulated about this time, in which the King and Madam Dubarré, were very severely handled. Those verses in particular, only exposed a mystery, that 'till then, was only whispered

whispered about. No person at Versailles doubted but that the Duke d'Aiguillon was admitted to the arms of the favourite; it was the fate of Lewis XV. to be cuckolded by his ministers. The minister we are speaking of, had already a connection with Madam de Chateauroux, which could not be a secret to his Majesty; and Cardinal de Bernis, and the Duke de Choiseul, according to the report of the courtiers, had alternately enjoyed the favours of Madam Pompadour. Happily those verses were not communicated to the King; it is at least to be presumed so, as the favour of the mistress and minister was not diminished. It was not said that any person had been taken up on suspicion of having composed, vended, or sung those verses. This simplicity encouraged people to make others still more severe. An epigram of the most bitter kind was handed about under an appearance of simplicity; it contained great acrimony.

BUT this was still less severe than another epigram, in which the Princes were
abused

abused for their defection; and represented as disputing the honour of shewing their zeal, and respect to the Countess.

THESE rhimes might be looked upon as a supplement to the former; without coming however from the same hand. In the first there was more mirth and art, but infinitely less of strength and energy. In condemning the freedom with which the writer treated the august personages he exhibited, we must however allow him merit in the execution; the lines certainly proceeded from a pen that had been accustomed to such atrocity, and must have been bitterly felt by those who were the subjects of them, if they reached their knowledge; but their historical merit consisted in the anecdotes which they contained.

1st, MADAM Dubarrè was attacked on the most tender side; her breasts were represented as become too voluminous, and having lost that elasticity that constituted their greatest beauty; they were even said to be prostituted to her negroe-boy; this calumny was unhappily found-
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ed on the foolish caresses she bestowed on that slave, and on the blind indulgence with which she spoilt him. 2dly, The motives of the return of the princes were laid open. That of the prince of Condé was ascribed to his ambition, which had been flattered with the hopes of obtaining the command of the troops in case of a war, which was apprehended. No notice however was taken of the hopes with which he had been amused of seeing his daughter married to the Count d'Artois; this royal prince was in fact desperately in love with her. In short, the public suspicions that were now asserted as real, and that the Prince of Condé had remained so long united with the other princes in their resistance, only with a view of being a spy on their conduct. With respect to the Duke of Orleans, every body was persuaded that it was Madam de Montesson, that determined his defection, on the assurances she had received, that the King should approve, and ratify her marriage with the Duke of Orleans. She had the more
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reason to flatter herself that Madam Dubarrè would promote the match with all her influence, as the latter was said to have the design of succeeding to the honours that Madam Maintenon had enjoyed.

No mention was made in the verses of the Duke of Chartres, who had been likewise flattered with some promotion; he had been made to consider as a thing very possible his succeeding the Duke of Penthièvre, his father-in-law, in the post of admiral. The great Dubarrè, who was the go-between to the Duke d'Aiguillon, had thrown out his bait. His sister-in-law was called upon by his highness to make good her promise, and second his application to the sovereign; but the affair miscarried, by their blunder in omitting to obtain the previous consent of the Duke of Penthièvre. His Majesty had sentiments of delicacy and honour; and was so offended at the scheme, that he gave the favourite a flat denial. This humour however did not last, and the author of the Court Thermometers, placed
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her in as high a degree as ever. It is true, a report prevailed about Easter, that she was likely to be discarded.—The cause of the report was as follows :

A CERTAIN Abbé, of the name of Beauvais, preached before the King at Versailles. This young man, who was of an obscure family, and nephew to the keeper of the records of the clergy, was determined, if possible, to make his fortune, while he officiated, either to obtain a bishopric, or be sent to the Bastile. He took a most extraordinary method to effect his purpose : he distinguished himself by an uncommon freedom and boldness ; he had the resolution to thunder out censures from the pulpit against the scandalous life of Lewis XV. He particularly described his passion for Madam Dubarrè, in a striking picture of the licentious manners of the wife Solomon : the comparison was obvious. After an allegory of the strongest resemblance, “—In fine,” said he, “ this
“ monarch, satiated with voluptuous en-
“ joyments, tired with having exhausted,
“ in order to revive his withered appetites,
“ every

“ every species of pleasure that furrounds
“ the throne, concluded with seeking a
“ new kind in the vile dregs of public
“ corruption.” An observation dropped
by the King was a proof that he understood the meaning of the preacher; for upon a certain day that the orator had declaimed with vehemence against those vicious dotards, who in the frost of age still endeavour to cherish the flames of concupiscence, his Majesty, after the sermon was over, addressing himself to Marshal Richlieu, said, “ Well, Richlieu, I think
“ the preacher has flung many stones into
“ your garden.” “ Yes, please your
“ Majesty,” replied the antiquated lecher,
“ and with such violence too, that some
“ of them even rebounded to the gardens
“ of Versailles.” On the other hand, some corrupt courtiers having endeavoured to provoke the resentment of the King against the Abbé de Beauvais, by relating some of the severest parts of his sermons, his Majesty excused him, by saying, That it was his business and duty. The spies of Madam Dubarrè, in the mean time, gave
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her an account of the late boldness of the declaimer ; she made such severe complaints to her august lover, that she changed in a moment the good dispositions the Prince was in towards the preacher ; so that when he was introduced to take leave of his Majesty, instead of a compliment, which he expected from him, the King said, “ Doctor, you was very prolix yesterday.” But this discontent was but a temporary satisfaction with which he gratified his mistress ; and the design of the ambitious priest was not the less successful : he was made Bishop of Senez.

THE chief employment of the favourite in Lent, and afterwards, was to efface those impressions of terror which the preacher made on the mind of the King. To effect this, it was necessary for her to have recourse to new seductions, to plays, entertainments, splendid routs, and every thing that was likely to rouse the Monarch out of his melancholy reflections. She ordered the *Sieur Vestris* to make some wanton pantomime, with such animated pictures as might excite some sensations in
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an old man, already debilitated. This gave rise to the heroic ballet of Endymion; in which the author described the amours of Diana with that shepherd. The rise of that passion, its manifestation and consequences, were expressed with great energy. The airs adapted to the piece, were selected from among the most animated and voluptuous of the Lyric theatre. Madam Dubarrè was so well satisfied with the salutary effects which the happy invention of the composer produced for the moment, that she seconded him in the design he had of getting his ballet represented at the Opera House, and removed every obstacle that the Censor of Manners raised against it. She permitted the *Sieur Vestris* to declare, that the Countess made the request, and wished to see it represented a second time. She carried her munificence so far, as to have two boxes retained for her; as if she meant to have a numerous train. A report of this soon spread; and every one endeavoured to be present at so remarkable a period. People were the more curious, as the Marchioness of Pompadour had
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never presumed to appear at the opera with such parade and ceremony during the whole course of her long reign. Neither did Madam Dubarrè go. The ballet, however, was performed.

THE favourite, at the same time, procured a more agreeable scene than even the former for the Sovereign. It would have been flat and insipid to many others, though it was highly relished by the Prince. This was relative to the new French theatre, that occasioned the various projects that kept the performers in suspense. These people being jealous of their right and property, and imagining that they should secure them better by remaining in the old situation, contrived to interest the proprietors of houses and tradesmen of the neighbourhood in the affair. A female brewer, of the name of Loque, a celebrated go-between, who had occasion to know Miss Lange, and who was well acquainted with the great Dubarrè, took upon her to be the orator on the occasion. She sent to request of the Countess, to let her know on what day she might be admitted to an audi-

audience. The Countess consented the more readily, as she considered such a scene suited to the taste of the King, and very likely to divert him. The orator was desired to use no studied or borrowed eloquence, but to deliver herself in her own natural manner. The great corpulency, the flaming visage, the black eye-brows, the harsh looks, and the hoarse voice of the female advocate, gave to her enunciation a mode of eloquence so singular, that it was quite new to his Majesty. He did not lose a word of the harangue; but, to prevent the orator from being intimidated by his presence, he saw and heard every thing from a corner where he was concealed.

By means of those little expedients and amusements, the sermons of the Abbé de Beauvais were soon forgotten; and Madam Dubarrè continued her triumph over the heart of her august lover. She was near displacing a minister soon after; this was the Marquis de Monteynard, who was not pleasing to the Countess, on account of his intimacy with the Chancellor. She was
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still more exasperated against him on account of the refusal she experienced from him, in regard to the regiment of dragoons called Beaufremont. She had solicited for the *Sieur Dangé d'Arcay*, nephew to a farmer-general of the like name. The Secretary at War did not think proper to bestow the regiment on an upstart of that kind. He gave it to the *Prince of Lambesc*. The *Duke d'Aiguillon*, who coveted the war department, animated the favourite, and gave her to understand, that she would become mistress of those favours, in procuring the place for him. The ideas of the Duke were adopted. She made such bitter complaints to the King, not of the fact itself, but of the manner of refusing her, that the *Lettre de Cachet*, or order, was already signed. In the night, the King was disturbed; his uneasiness and remorse kept him awake; and the next morning he stopped the execution of his orders.

BUT the King was too weak, in repenting of an injustice, to censure his mistress, who made him commit it; nay, he seemed

to apologize to her for his conduct, in granting her the nomination to the places in the household of the Count d'Artois. Measures were now taken to settle it in good earnest. Complaints were made of the impositions of the Marchioness of Laugeac, under the Duke of La Vrilliere, who had that department. We have already observed his insolence, in refusing one of the Princesses of France a place that she had solicited. Madam Dubarrè had then supported the minister; but, being better informed afterwards, she suggested to her royal lover the necessity of putting a stop to this plunder; and the King desired her to propose persons, at least for the first places; which were granted to the greater part of the creatures of the Countess: thus it was, that the Chevalier Dubarrè, afterwards Marquis Dubarrè, was made Captain of the hundred Swiss, the body-guards of the prince.

IN this intoxicating degree of favour, many people admired how Madam Dubarrè could so well preserve the sentiments of nature, and forget no part of duty to her

her mother. The mother was in the Convent of St. Elizabeth, where she was known by the name of Madam de Monrable; and flattery already began to compliment her with the title of Marchioness. We must however confess, that neither her manners nor behaviour intitled her to such a distinction. At first, the Dubarrès endeavoured to drive her out of Paris; but, by her resolution and firmness, she triumphed over that persecution, and lived very quietly in her convent. She had an equipage lately, and a country house; and began to acquire a degree of consideration. People were edified by the filial piety with which Madam Dubarrè regularly paid her duty to her mother every fortnight. She spent a great part of the day with her. The Superior carried her mean condescension so far, as to send her niece, who had a fine voice, to entertain the Countess with a song while she was at dinner.

BUT this attachment of Madam Dubarrè to her family was an additional tax upon the state, which her own luxury already oppressed severely. It was asserted,

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that she had already drawn out of the royal exchequer, either for her own use, or to indulge her generosity, eighteen millions of livres in cash, without reckoning particular orders and indirect expences. This provoked the indignation of a bold poet. This violent patriot, not daring openly to lash those vices which inflamed his rage, contrived to give his satire an air of antiquity. He supposed that the original was composed by a Roman author, named *Caius Lucilius*, who was exasperated at the infamy and corruption of the age. Some of the verses strongly alluded to the favourite.

MADAM Dubarrè, in the mean while, lavished money on the most wretched scribblers, who were mean enough to address their verses to her : thus, at the opening of the year, she paid the *Sieur de Sauvigny* extravagantly for having sung her praises. The poet, encouraged by her liberality, undertook a large work under her patronage ; this was the *Lady's Parnassus*, in ten volumes. The Countess subscribed immediately for a great number of copies ; and
every

every one who visited her was obliged to follow her example, if they would court her favour.

PLAYERS, singers, and dancers had all a share in her liberality. This occasioned two very droll incidents, that deserve to be recorded as a proof of the little dignity of the favourite, whose palace was a common receptacle for all sorts of people. The cause of those incidents was as follows: Madam Dubarrè, who was very fond of Mademoiselle Dubois, belonging to the French theatre, and on whom she had heaped many favours, had exerted her authority, in order to make her appear again on the stage. The latter was ready to obey; but circumstances were against it. She took advantage of the access which the affair gained her with the Countess, made so free as to unbosom herself, and begged her to do a more meritorious work, by prevailing on a dancer, of the name of d'Auberval, to marry her. Madam Dubarrè, who delighted in this sort of female intrigue, and who amused the King with them, spoke to d'Auberval; but he ex-

cused himself, and, no doubt, gave excellent reasons for not complying; so the affair dropped. From this sketch some anonymous author produced the two following letters. The first is supposed from Mademoiselle Dubois to the Countess Dubarrè.

“MADAM,

“IN compliance with your commands, I
“had determined to return to the stage,
“and to exert every effort in the improve-
“ment of my slender talents for your
“amusement. My application has been
“unfortunately too late; my parts have
“been given away, and my fellow-players
“have insinuated the confusion I should
“now produce. They have assured me,
“that a memorial was preparing to lay
“before you the impossibility of my pre-
“sent appearance. That will, I hope,
“convince you, Madam, how earnest I
“have been in my solicitations, and with
“what ardour I should have contributed
“to your amusement in those happy mo-
“ments

“ ments when your mind is unbent from
 “ important occupations.

“ Your goodness, however, encourages
 “ me, Madam, to solicit another favour.
 “ Permit me to open my heart to you :
 “ you have too much sensibility not to
 “ compassionate the errors of love. I
 “ have loved d'Auberval for above twelve
 “ years ; and happy should I have been
 “ if his passion for me had been equally
 “ ardent : but the faithless man has often
 “ since protested the same affection to ma-
 “ ny others. I have, however, a precious
 “ pledge of our love, in a child that is so
 “ far the object of my maternal tender-
 “ ness, that I cannot reflect, without the
 “ deepest concern, on the illegitimacy of
 “ his birth ; and all I would wish would
 “ be, to repair that defect by marriage. I
 “ am in so good circumstances at present,
 “ that I have sufficient to pay all the debts
 “ of my perfidious lover ; and all I would
 “ ask for this, is but a return of affection
 “ with his hand. To effect this good
 “ purpose, Madam, would be a work wor-
 “ thy of you ; and though I have lived

“ a life of irregularity, my heart has al-
“ ways cherished virtuous sentiments. You
“ are not a stranger to the dangers of a
“ young girl who has any accomplish-
“ ments, and whose situation exposes her
“ to the seductive flattery and attacks of
“ men of rank and education. How, in-
“ deed, is it possible for her to resist so
“ many powerful temptations? I can,
“ however, say with great truth, that I
“ never was happy in the riotous pleasures
“ of the stage. My conscience is natu-
“ rally timid, and easily alarmed. The
“ terrors of futurity continually disturbed
“ me in the very midst of dissipation and
“ pleasure. The loss of my last lover has
“ thrown me into a deep melancholy :
“ his unhappy end, in the flower of his
“ age, has filled me with apprehensions
“ for my own fate. This, Madam, was
“ the principal motive of my retreat
“ from the stage, until your wish that I
“ might return to it again, overcame my
“ scruples and repugnance. Circumstan-
“ ces alone prevent a compliance with
“ your commands. Vouchsafe, Madam,
“ to

“ to complete the happiness I have in
 “ taking up a moment of your thoughts
 “ about me, by granting me the protec-
 “ tion I solicit, or rather by an exertion
 “ of authority which could never be more
 “ worthily employed. I am persuaded,
 “ moreover, that d’Auberval can never re-
 “ fuse complying with a duty that is dic-
 “ tated by you ; and what will be an ad-
 “ ditional comfort to me in this marriage,
 “ as not having it in my power to amuse
 “ you on the theatre in my leisure hours,
 “ I shall still contribute to your diversion
 “ by another self, by a husband, who will
 “ remain there as long as he has the hap-
 “ piness of giving you any pleasure.

“ I am,

“ with the most profound respect, &c.”

Paris, April 22d, 1773.

In a postscript was written. “ For the
 “ better understanding of this letter,
 “ the reader must be informed that d’Au-
 “ berval, a dancer of the Opera-house,
 “ who is a man of sense and humour, di-
 “ verts greatly the Countess Dubarrè, has

“ the direction of the entertainments she
“ makes, and, therefore, is on a very fa-
“ miliar footing with that lady.”

’Twas no doubt, in order to preserve
this freedom, that d’Auberval was made
to answer in a very free style. His letter
was prefaced with the following note :

“ THE Countess Dubarrè, at the request
“ of Mademoiselle Dubois, having vouch-
“ safed to interest herself for her marriage
“ with d’Auberval, sent for that dancer,
“ and informed him of the offers of that
“ actress, which consisted in giving him
“ 40,000 livres down, in order to pay his
“ debts, to sink her effects, which might
“ produce 10,000 livres per annum ; and,
“ in fine, to secure to him a moiety of the
“ annuity of 15,000 livres, which she had.
“ D’Auberval begged of the Countess to
“ favour him with the letter of Mademoi-
“ selle Dubois, to give him time for con-
“ sideration, and to permit him to give an
“ answer in writing. This occasioned the
“ following reply, which furnished matter
“ of

“ of entertainment to the Green-room, as
 “ no doubt d’Auberval gave out copies of
 “ both letters.”

“ MADAM,

“ I AM not so well acquainted with af-
 “ fairs of love as Miss Dubois ; but if it
 “ consists in receiving a man into her bed,
 “ I am persuaded she has a great deal
 “ for me. As it was out of my power,
 “ however, to occupy her every day, and
 “ that it was absolutely necessary for her
 “ to have love at any rate, she frequently
 “ gave my place to others ; and, by this
 “ means, four or five of us, and sometimes
 “ more, relieved one another by turns.
 “ From this medley of lovers resulted a
 “ little boy. She has done me the ho-
 “ nour to father him entirely upon me ;
 “ this preference and partiality I accepted
 “ the more gratefully, as she might have
 “ chosen a father of much greater distinc-
 “ tion, either from a variety of court-
 “ lords, the judges, or lords of the trea-
 “ sury. Be these matters as they may,

“ the honour was accepted, and I took
“ charge of the boy ; but the mamma, who
“ considered this child as a toy, created
“ for no other end by Providence but to di-
“ vert her, thought proper to have him
“ back for her amusement. I then ex-
“ pressed my disapprobation at her pro-
“ ceeding, and disclaimed all rights or
“ pretensions of a father. But now that
“ the youth is not so entertaining or do-
“ cile, that he is rather troublesome and a
“ burthen, she wishes to be rid of him,
“ and send him back to me. But, as she
“ has had the pleasure, it is but just she
“ should have the trouble, especially as
“ it is very well adapted to the vulgar
“ life she intends to lead, and to the na-
“ tural sentiments of the mother, as well
“ as to those of religion, which she makes
“ a parade of at present. I know her head
“ to be very weak ; I should fear to be in-
“ fected with the like malady ; and that
“ she might, in the end, turn mine. She is
“ afraid of the devil ; so am I ; and it
“ is that prevented me from marrying
“ her ; for she is a devil incarnate, who is

“ &c.

“ the plague and torment of her father,
 “ mother, sisters, and lovers. What then
 “ should be the fate of her unfortunate
 “ husband ?

“ You have permitted me, Madam, to
 “ give my sentiments with freedom on this
 “ matter. I do no more than comply with
 “ your inclination. I wish my sincerity
 “ may afford you some mirth ; this is all,
 “ I presume, you had in view in the ne-
 “ gociation, which was beneath you, con-
 “ sidering the parties interested ; but is an
 “ admirable proof of that goodness of heart
 “ that shines conspicuous in all your ac-
 “ tions. The greatest misfortune of Miss
 “ Dubois will, no doubt, be her incapa-
 “ city to contribute to your pleasures any
 “ longer ; but, for my part, a marriage
 “ between her and me is not at all neces-
 “ sary to make me devoted to you ; be-
 “ sides, I would rather have all the me-
 “ rit alone of the most voluntary attach-
 “ ment to your service.

“ WITH regard to Miss Raucoux, whom
 “ you have been pleased to propose to me
 “ for a wife, in case a match with Miss

“ Dubois should not take place, I have
“ only to observe, that the lady is young,
“ and likely to have engagements with the
“ world; I have, therefore, no great de-
“ sire to be the first, or even the second,
“ that shall instruct her in the affairs of
“ gallantry: when she has gone through
“ several hands, we shall then see with
“ whom she will ultimately remain.

“ I am,

“ with the most profound respect, &c.”

Paris, April 30th, 1773.

COUNT Dubarrè, the brother-in-law, was of no inconsiderable expence to government. His great influence with his sister-in-law made him consider the royal treasury as his own private purse. He lost immense sums at play, which gave him very little uneasiness; nor did he endeavour to conceal his losses. When he happened to have a run of ill-luck, and people seemed to express a concern, he used to say sometimes, “ Do not be afflicted, my friends, on my account; you must pay those losses.” In the spring of the year,

1773.

1773, he had shut himself up in the castle of Triel, which the Sieur Brizard, the Farmer-general, had lent him. The object of this accommodation was, to have a retired place for the reception of gamesters like himself, where he might freely indulge his immoderate passion for play. At a single sitting he lost 7000 guineas, and boasted, that he was then a loser of near 25,000.—To repair the late loss, he gave, according to custom, a draft on the Abbé Terrai. The Abbé, recollecting the insolent remarks he had made upon him, refused paying the money. The drawer vowed vengeance against the Comptroller-general; but the refusal was concerted with the Duke d'Aiguillon, who was no less offended; and that minister had been previously with the sister-in-law, in order to defeat any attack that might be made upon the Abbé from that quarter by the brother-in-law. The Count, being informed of this step, was not more moderate: he did not scruple to avow his sentiments openly at a supper; and declared, that if the Duke d'Aiguillon was unmindful

mindful of the obligations he owed him, he would find means to have him dismissed with less difficulty than he had procured the place. He added, he was no way afraid of speaking his mind; and even wished that what he said might be communicated to the Duke. It was reasonable to suppose, that the ministers were intimidated; for the affair was made up, and the Count received the sum he desired.

WHAT contributed perhaps to the reconciliation, was the necessity of a union in order to captivate the monarch, and hold him fast in the chains of the Countess. A few words which the King dropped about this time, made them tremble. Some shocks which his health sustained, affected his Majesty; he kept the matter a secret from his courtiers, and only communicated his remarks to the *Sieur de le Martiniere*, his first surgeon, in whom he reposed great confidence. He made him sleep in his own apartment, and followed his advice. It was rumoured that his Majesty, in expressing his fears
with

with respect to his enfeebled powers, said to his Esculapius: "I plainly perceive that I must suspend the wheels;" and that Martiniere made answer: "Your Majesty would do better still, to unyoke entirely." Whatever truth might be in this, the august lover shewed a temporary coolness to his mistress. She had bespoke a splendid equipage for the review; but neither the goddess nor her coach appeared there, where great crowds had assembled in order to have a sight of her. This humour continued all the time of the review, and was remarked by every body. The Duke de Coffé, whom the Countess protected, being left out in the distribution of the vacant blue ribbons at Whitsuntide, strengthened the suspicions of the courtiers; but we must attribute this omission to nothing but the indifference of the Countess on the occasion, who was dissatisfied with him for not having prevailed upon his dutchess to attend her levees. Besides, it was well known that the coolness of his Majesty, had not continued any length of time; and

and there were evident proofs of the increasing influence and power of the Countess. The first prince of the blood was her suppliant. He was almost fantic, that he could not prevail upon the King to permit his marrying Madam de Montesson publicly, without which she could not be acknowledged Dutchess of Orleans. This was the method that was used, in order to induce the lady of his affections, to persuade him to return to court; and when there was no farther occasion for them, they were laughed at. The Prince had recourse to the mediation of the favourite, who made answer, "Good father fat-sides," (so she familiarly called the Prince, who was very corpulent,) "marry her; we shall endeavour afterwards to give you more perfect satisfaction: you are sensible that I am strongly interested to serve you; you may depend on my zeal and friendship." The Duke of Orleans followed her advice. We may easily judge from this freedom, to what a degeneracy our princes were fallen, when they would patiently suffer it.

MADAM

MADAM Dubarré displayed her protection and power, in a more honourable affair. She procured the disgrace of the Chevalier d'Arcq, for some acts of extortion; and notwithstanding the tears of Madam Langeac, and those of the Duke of la Vrillière, had him banished to Tullés.

It were to be wished that she had acted as efficaciously on a more important occasion. She received by the post from Poitou a little box, upon opening which, there was found a petition from the wretched peasants, who complained of the badness of the bread they were obliged to eat; a sample of the bread accompanied the petition. The favourite, moved by their melancholy supplications, carried the petition and bread to the King. His Majesty broke, examined and tasted the latter; we have not however learned that the complaints of the poor people had any effect.

A GREAT event that happened in the family of the Dubarrés, during the visit to Compiègne, gave rise to new reports and intrigues, as well as to a multiplicity

tiplicity of anecdotes. This event was the marriage of Viscount Adolphus, son to Count John, the hopes of his family ; and in whom the family wished to unite the most eminent dignities. The first project of their ambition was to have him married to a natural daughter of the King ; who went by the name of St. André, and was educated with many others in the Convent of the Presentation. She was marriageable. Lewis XV. was resolved to give her to the Viscount. He sent for the Sieur Yon, in whom he confided, and who had the care of the education of the young lady, as well as of her fortune, and communicated his intention. The Sieur Yon had the courage to tell his Majesty, that he was indeed the master ; but that he would not consent to the match, nor have any hand in it. He expressed his surprise, and some degree of dissatisfaction ; but permitted him to explain his motives. “ May it please your Majesty, he answered, it is not proper that a young lady in whose veins your royal blood flows, should make such

an alliance. I mean not to dispute his personal merits, he may be a very worthy man; nor the origin of his family, it may be ancient; but this marriage is neither solid or proper. All the fortune of the young man depends upon your favours; all the consequence he enjoys is precarious. Should the dissatisfaction of your Majesty, or any fatal event, deprive his family of their support, what must become of your daughter? Would you have her exposed to the mortifications, and persecutions, perhaps, that must attend such a connection? No, your Majesty will not hazard this." The Sovereign was out of humour; and dismissing him, told him he would reflect upon what he had said. A few days after, he sent for the *Sieur Yon* again; and having expressed his concurrence in the justice of his remonstrances, declared that he would give *Miss St. André*, to the *Marquis de la Tour-du-pin la Cherce*. Thus failed the plan of the *Dubarrès*. They turned their eyes upon another young lady, whose alliance was also likely to prove

prove very advantageous ; and perhaps more so than the first, on account of the new prospects that such a connection opened.

THIS young lady was Miss de Tournon, of a noble family of Normandy, aged seventeen, one of the greatest beauties of France, and related besides to the first persons of the Court ; but she had no fortune. She was then in the Convent of the Assumption ; and the Prince de Soubise, who acknowledged her for his relation, was mean enough, as it was said, to be the first proposer of the match. Be that as it may, the offer was accepted with joy. The Prince de Condé, who had married a daughter of the Prince de Soubise, became a party in the negociation. It was necessary to have his concurrence. He made more difficulty than his father-in-law. Being an ambitious man, he was resolved to take advantage of an event that the Countess was so desirous of, and to make it instrumental to increase his influence. He proposed his terms ; which were, That he should be admitted into the Privy-council ;
that

that his debts, amounting to 1,500,000 livres, should be discharged ; and that the King should purchase a house for him. None of the conditions appeared to alarm, except his admittance to the council ; to which his Majesty would not consent in a formal manner. It seems that the ministers, who had an interest in keeping out so powerful a member, would not suffer the King to bind himself by such a promise. They said, it was sufficient if his Majesty gave him room to hope for this favour after the wedding, without naming any particular time. The Prince, who had been already amused several times with false promises, persisted in the demand before he would comply ; and this difficulty delayed, for some time, an event, that set the whole court in a fermentation both for and against it. Some artful men at length determined his highness to consent, by giving him hopes that he should acquire a great degree of favour, even supposing the promises that might be made, should not be performed. They gave him to understand, that Miss
de

de Tournon, by her extraordinary beauty, would surely captivate the King; that she would supplant the favourite; and, that by gaining an ascendant over the new mistress, which his rank and the being allied to her must give him, he should be able to govern her, and perhaps acquire the chief administration of the kingdom. But the Countess, to whom the same reflections were suggested, so far cooled her ardour for the match, that it was again thought it would not take place. Some interested people artfully inspired her with apprehensions: happily, however, she subdued them. She fixed her resolutions, and said with great gaiety, and good humour, That if Miss de Tournon became the mistress of the King, being once married to Viscount Adolphus, the place at least would not go out of the family. It is certain this was the design of Count John; he had been for some time dissatisfied with his sister-in-law. He was not pleased with her for not having supported him against the ministers; and for having suffered him to remove from court;

court; and since his return, he had severe quarrels with her. It was reported that in a violent fit of ill humour, he had given vent to his spleen in a sonnet; in which, he related with great freedom and severity, the most injurious things of the Countess. It was indeed very low, and satirical.

THE quarrels, however, of knaves are seldom of long continuance; and those two persons were too necessary to each other not to be reconciled, or, at least, preserve a political harmony together.

THE marriage, on which Count John founded his expectations, at length took place at St. Roch, after many delays and interruptions. The married couple breakfasted, after the ceremony, with the Comptroller-general, and then set out immediately for Compeigne. People talked of the richness of the nuptial presents; and, no doubt they were very superb, as his Majesty had been at the chief expence. People flattered themselves with the notion, that this wedding would be preceded by a reconciliation with the royal family.

mily. Endeavours had been used for a long while to effect it; the King wished it; and it was on the point of taking place at a friendly supper that was concerted, where the Princesses were to be with Madam Dubarrè; but the whole affair fell to the ground, and was more distant than ever. It was an intriguing court lady who planned the affair, having been seduced by sumptuous presents.—The lady above hinted to, was the Countess of Narbonne, an attendant of the Princess Adelaide. Exclusive of the pecuniary favours she expected, she was in hopes of getting her husband created a Duke. She, therefore, exerted all her interest with her mistress, who was likewise ambitious, and wished to appear in the busy scene. The attendant insinuated, that she never should have the least degree of influence while she lived in enmity with the favourite. The Princess, overcome by her arguments, easily persuaded her sisters, Madam de Province, and even the Dauphiness, to follow her example. Matters were in a fair way of succeeding, when the Dauphin, quite dis-

disconcerted the whole plan. He was inflexible: his mode of refusal even shewed his ill-humour; for he added, That the Dauphiness should never eat at the same table with a strumpet; and whatever might be her inclination, he would never suffer it. Some people excused the Princess for consenting, by making her consider it as a mere matter of policy. They pretended, that she had been advised to let the refusal come from her august consort, as it would become him much better.

THE Dauphin had still a better opportunity of shewing his ill-humour at the introduction of the Viscountess, who was led in by the Countess Dubarré. When the Gentleman-usher gave notice of the approach of the two ladies, the Prince stood at a window, playing with his fingers on the glass. They waited, in vain, for him to look at them, and comply with the etiquette and ceremony. He neither spoke to them, nor quitted the posture, and suffered them to retire as they had entered. These two beauties, however, merited a look. The curious crowded to Compeigne, in order to see the new-married lady, and

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make

make a comparison between her and her rival. The latter had her admirers ; who, while they allowed the Viscountess to have more freshness and true beauty, did not think her mistress of those enchanting graces and charms of the aunt. She made a powerful impression on the senses of the monarch. His Majesty shewed it the very first day by certain secret familiarities, which occasioned a report of his having slept with her. The report was, perhaps, founded on a singular circumstance. The family of the bride advised her, out of prudence, not to bed with her husband until he had performed quarantine, and purged away every impurity that he might have contracted in the promiscuous connection with a variety of pretty girls ; as he was known to be fond of the sex, and, like his father, one of the greatest wenchers in the kingdom.

THE favourite, from a consciousness that the eyes of all Europe were upon her, and that every one was eager to know her history, was very attentive lest the avarice of French, or foreign booksellers, might

might be tempted to publish any thing of that kind. The minister of the foreign department had orders to be watchful abroad, and the guardian of domestic affairs to be careful, in that respect, at home. It was asserted, that, in the month of May, a printer of Strasburgh had been taken up for publishing an infamous book, which served as a supplement to *the Porter of the Carthusians*; in which the author, with the most criminal freedom, entered into the particulars of the King's amours; and even represented imaginary scenes, very loose; with descriptions, illustrated by copper-plates, that conveyed a striking resemblance. It was then said, that happily a stop had been put to the publication of so scandalous a libel; and that even the plates and manuscript were seized; so that no person of credit could declare that he had seen this execrable performance. This is what was generally reported. The mysterious proceedings of the police are transacted with such secrecy, that the real truth never transpires.

MEN of talents had, about the same time, a proof that the Countess was ready to favour those who contributed to her pleasures. She shewed her liberality in regard to the *Sieur Chaffé*. This man was of a good family of Brittany, who, through dissipation, necessity, or an extravagant passion for the stage, had become a singer, or player, at the Opera-house. His fine person, his noble and graceful action, and the power of his voice, which was a tenor, had made him one of the heads of those entertainments. After having long flourished there, he retired; and had not appeared on the stage for several years. He was now about the age of 76. *Madam Dubarrè* had heard him much extolled, but had never seen him. She had the curiosity to send for him, in order to hear him sing. He refused complying with the request, notwithstanding the intreaties of those who applied; and declared, that he would not do it but for the King; and that from the obedience due to his master, as well as gratitude for the favours and pension with which he had been honoured.

honoured. It was necessary, therefore, to order him to attend in the name of his Majesty, when he was to have a private supper with the mistress. She was so much delighted, that the Prince observed it, and told Chaffé that he engaged him for the entertainments that were to be made at the marriage of the Count d'Artois; that the opera of Roland, in which he excelled, was to be performed, and he desired him to take the part. The next morning the finger received a gold box worth fifty guineas; and, not to hurt his delicacy, Madam Dubarré desired he might be told it was a present from the King. However well pleased Chaffé might be by this distinction, he found means to elude playing; and Roland was not represented.

LETTERS were received from Toulouse, which gave the Countess great uneasiness about her husband. The Count, who was a very insignificant fellow, as we have already described him, and who resided in that city, on account of the shameful life he had led in Paris, whence he had therefore been removed, took it into his head

to take an active part in the various commotions that were raised in Languedoc, on account of the dearth of bread. One day, when the fermentation in that capital was very great, he harangued the people; and had the assurance to make promises, and capitulate with the insurgents. The Parliament was offended at this. Some of the members were for outlawing him: but lenity prevailed. He was not, in general, more respected there than in other places; nor behaved with more decency. He openly kept a girl; which is considered as a thing more scandalous in the provinces than at Paris.

A MORE important anecdote, in which a greater number was concerned, was likewise talked of; and dissipated the hopes of those who still reckoned on the restoration of the magistracy. Attempts had been made to interest the favourite, between whom and the Chancellor the breach was grown wider: those endeavours were again renewed. The Duke of Orleans had given orders to the *Sieur de Boynes* to draw up a memorial on the subject. They both privately waited on her afterwards, and pro-

proposed to her to use her interest with the King for a plan that would satisfy all parties. The lady, tapping on the prominent paunch of his Highness, in her usual style of familiarity, said, "My good father " fat-sides, I do not meddle in state affairs." The first Prince of the blood persisted, and became a suppliant in the most humble manner. The minister seconded his intreaties, by representing to her, that the affair they were proposing was worthy of her. At length she consented to hear the memorial. The Sieur de Boynes had begun to read; but the Countess, perceiving that the Parliament had been introduced, protested once more, That she did not concern herself with state affairs. The King coming in at the moment, the Prince hastily snatched the paper out of the hands of the Secretary of State, in order to put it into his pocket; but his Majesty, observing his mistress to change colour, desired to know the reason: so that she was under the necessity of informing him of what had passed. Upon which the Sovereign insisted upon seeing the memorial;

but as soon as he discovered what were the contents of it, he returned it to the Duke; saying, at the same time, "If you desire that we should be friends, Cousin, you will have no concern in this affair;" and then turning to Monsieur de Boynes, said, "I am surprized to find you here; this is not a place for you: retire.—As for you, my dear," addressing himself to Madam Dubarrè, "I thank you for the reluctance you have shewn; and I am convinced you have no concern in the plot."

SHORTLY after, however, it was said, that the Prince had made another attempt with the favourite, in hopes of better success, and endeavoured to prevail on her to speak to her august lover in favour of the Parliament, and to present him with a memorial, containing a plan for a reconciliation; but that the lady did not consent to an interview until she had previously consulted the King; who, during the conference, was concealed in a place, whence he could hear all that passed; that his Majesty had made his appearance afterwards; and, after expressing the most
vio-

violent resentment against the Duke of Orleans, had even menaced him with a total loss of his favour, if he persisted in urging such matters. Upon which the Prince, being piqued, had made answer, That such a loss would, no doubt, be a severe affliction and misfortune; but that he would bear it with fortitude, in defence of the public good, which he could not desert. The favourite, however, had the good fortune to reconcile the Prince and the Sovereign immediately.

WE must return to the marriage of the Viscount, which procured the father a fresh supply of money. It is well known, that the quarrel with the Countess had been owing to her refusal of twenty thousand guineas, which he wanted to discharge his gaming debts. It was found necessary to gratify him with that sum, as a present on the marriage of his son. One could hardly give credit to such extravagant prodigality, if it had not been attested by ocular testimony. All those who have played with this Dubarré, acknowledge, that he acts like a prince at play. His behaviour

with regard to the *Sieur Vestris*, which was much talked of about this time, was, in fact, most noble and generous. Count John having admitted the dancer to play with him, lost 15,00 guineas to him. The winner would have gladly retired with so much good fortune; but had not resolution, as he apprehended some reproaches from the Count, who did him honour in associating with him on the occasion. He continued therefore, and lost back 500 guineas by his false delicacy. The generous Count, perceiving the dancer afflicted at his reverse of fortune, said to him, “ Monsieur Vestris, we have played enough for the present; I owe you a thousand guineas, and will send them to you to-morrow morning.”

Soon after the marriage of the Viscount, another wedding was set on foot, in the same family. This was the Chevalier Dubarrè, to whom was proposed a young lady of a very ancient and noble family. The lady's name was de Fumel. The Count John had the honour of conversing a whole hour with the King on this

this occasion; this is what he had not enjoyed for a long time. The subject was upon some advantageous settlements for the family of the husband. The young lady was an heiress and only child; the husband was to take the name and arms of her family. Her father was to give up a landed estate of 60,000 livres a year, and the King to bestow 500,000 livres, to pay off all incumbrances on the estate. The intended son-in-law was to have, besides, the reversion of the government of the palace, Trompette, which the father held. The young lady objected to the match. Her lover, who is the youngest of the Dubarrès, has not a prepossessing figure; he is short and fat; he was then about the age of thirty-six; he had the honour of being at the military school, and was a knight of the order; his behaviour was approved and esteemed. He was colonel of the Queen's regiment, and had been recently appointed Captain of the Swiss Guards of the Count d'Artois; his wife was to be a companion to the countess. All this could not flatter the

young lady, though she was not handsome; she had too much sense not to be apprehensive of such an alliance. The Sovereign was obliged to interfere, and that prevailed; but the family of the Fumels made obstacles to the ingrafting a Dubarrè on their name. He is now called Marquis Dubarrè.

THESE Dubarrè's so much engrossed the public attention, that scarce any thing else was talked of; even Count William, the husband of the countess, made himself the subject of fame. We have observed how he took upon himself to act a part at Toulouse; he had a second adventure not long after. He returned to Paris hastily; the reason he gave for this sudden journey was doubted; and many people looked upon his story as an invention of his own, to apologise for his return to the capital. He said, that he received a threatening letter, desiring him to deposit a certain sum of money, in a particular place; that if he did not comply he should suffer for it, and having disregarded those menaces, he had received
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a letter still more urgent with menaces more explicit, that greatly alarmed him. His view probably was in imitation of his brother, to appropriate to himself a share in the public spoils.

BUT the abject flattery of Monsieur Voltaire was enough to turn their brain. He was mean enough to bend the knee before the idol, and write a letter to the countess. Though it has been public enough, it will be necessary to give the contents of it here, for the better illustration of some matters.

Mr. VOLTAIRE to the Countess DUBARRE.

“MONSIEUR de la Borde tells me, that
“you have ordered him to give me a
“kiss on each cheek from you.

“WHAT, two kisses at the last stage
“of my life! What a gracious passport
“you vouchsafe to honour me with!
“Two kisses! 'tis too much, adorable
“Egeria, I should sink under the pleasure
“of the first. He has shewn me your
“picture, and I hope you will not be
“offended

“offended at the liberty that I have taken
“to return the two kisses to your im-
“age. You cannot prevent this homage ;
“this slender tribute must be offered by
“every one who has eyes. Mortals may
“adore your likeness, the original was
“formed for the gods.

“I HAVE heard Mr. de la Borde recite
“several parts of Pandora; they appear
“worthy of your protection. The favour
“you shew to talents is the only thing
“that can add to your splendor and fame.
“Vouchsafe, Madam, to accept the pro-
“found respect of an old recluse; whose
“heart is now scarce alive to any other
“feelings but those of gratitude.”

FOR the better understanding of this letter, the reader must observe that the *Sieur de la Borde*, valet de chambre to the King, went to Geneva; that he had set the opera of *Pandora*, written by *Voltaire*, to music; and that the author, still eager to occupy the theatre, wished to have the piece represented under the auspices of the Countess.

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WITH regard to the nymph Egeria, to whom he compared Madam Dubarrè, history tells us, that the former inspired Numa, the wise legislator of the Romans; and by an extravagant piece of adulation, the author would insinuate, that the divinity of Versailles had suggested to Lewis the XV. all the late regulations he had made with regard to government.

IF any thing could excuse the philosopher of Ferney, it must be the general example. The favourite was the soul and centre of every negotiation and intrigue. The Abbé Terrai had artfully procured, through her influence, the superintendence of the public buildings. His design was to have in this place a proper exchange to give to any of the Dubarrès, in case she could procure him the seals, which he was very desirous of possessing; and which he foresaw must be taken from the chancellor sooner or later. A more powerful and considerable party arose, and began to form a much superior plan of government. This was a triumvirate composed of the Prince of Condé, the
Count

Count de la Marche, and Prince Soubise. They were to share conjointly the confidence of his Majesty; who was growing old, and must, of course, soon give it up to them intirely. The first wanted to be commander in chief of the armies; the second, superintendant of the finances; and the third, president of the council. They were to give up the care of the King's household, of the buildings, and all the internal departments, to the Dubarrè's. The monarch unhappily did not live long enough for them to realise their chimerical plan; nor could the Viscount even obtain the place of master of the horse; owing to the obstinacy of the Dauphin, who threatened him with all his resentment if he attempted to perform the functions of that office. The favourite gave up the point with a good grace; and her august lover was so pleased with the sacrifice she had made, that in return he conferred that dignity on no person.

AMONG all the intriguing courtiers, the Duke d'Aiguillon managed matters
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the best for himself. He carried on his designs so artfully, in conjunction with the Countess, against the Marquis of Monteynard, whom he endeavoured to deprive of the War-office, that he at length succeeded, and supplanted that minister, notwithstanding the protection and favour of the sovereign, who had strenuously supported him; but who greatly encouraged the enemies of the Marquis by an expression that could be scarce credited by those who do not know his Majesty: "He must fall," said he; "for he has no friend or protector but me."

THEY both wished to remove the Chancellor; and the Duke d'Aiguillon was the more desirous of it, as there was an open war between him and the Chief Justice. The courtiers called their opposition a mortal enmity. But his first measures were wrong. He was no less eager for the re-establishment of the Parliament; as the Princes had promised, that every imputation and stain on his character should be wiped off. The favourite, whose intimacy with the Duke augmented daily, necessarily

necessarily adopted all his notions. They imagined, that by shewing the King the inconveniences that resulted from the proceedings of Monsieur de Maupeou, they should effect his overthrow. But they were mistaken; the King, who was satisfied with the consequences of his proceedings, who found himself eased of the whole burthen of government, now that he had none of the gentlemen of the long robe about him, was too much afraid of the return of the magistrates, not to wish, on the contrary, to preserve the man who had freed him from them. They perceived their mistake when it was too late. The minister was sensible that it was necessary to insinuate to the Sovereign, that the general aversion of the princes, nobles, and public against the Chancellor, prevented his work from being fixed on a solid foundation; that it was the person rather than the measures of the man that was detested; and in concert with the favourite and the other ministers, he began to pursue this new method, which would have succeeded, but for the death
of

of Lewis XV. The Chancellor no less politic, perceiving that there was nothing to hope from the mistress, was obliged to have recourse to the royal family. He found it necessary, as it were, in spite of himself, to act an honourable part, as the best means to recommend himself. He affected religion with Madam Louisa, and railed at the corruption of the ministers, crouching so basely under a woman of infamous morals, who spent her whole time in the company of players, singers, dancers, and persons of scandalous occupations; who had recently acted with so little decency, as to make sale of play tickets to the nobility, whom she in a manner obliged to purchase, for a piece that she had ordered to be represented for the benefit of Miss Rancour, a creature of hers; and interested herself as warmly in this matter, as if it had been an important affair of state. By these insinuations, he so effectually irritated the minds of the royal family, that their indignation was doubly increased against the favourite, and all about her; and
 this

this so deeply afflicted the Sovereign, that he sorrowfully exclaimed, " I see plainly " that my children do not love me."

To shew his dissatisfaction at their behaviour, at his return from Compiègne, he suffered them all to go to Versailles, while he remained at Muette; where he ordered a splendid supper. There were thirty-five covers; among the company were six ladies: Madam Dubarrè, and the new bride shone most. The public were permitted to a sight of the latter, whom they had not before seen. Comparisons were made between the niece and the aunt, and former observations on the same subject were confirmed; the Viscountess was allowed to be a more regular beauty, but that nothing could equal the voluptuous sensations which the former inspired. She did all in her power to divert the monarch, who was continually absorbed in reflexions. He felt the impropriety of being thus divided from his family; but he was in a manner forced to it, by the ill humour he met with on every side. With regard to the favourite, her ease and

and familiarity conciliated every person; and indeed her engaging manners were almost irresistible; she had a pleasing extravagancy in her humour that was peculiar.

WE have taken notice of her little negro Zamora. We have observed that he was a great favourite with her; she frequently amused herself with him, and all the nobles who came to court her favour, were obliged to caress him. He served as an amusement likewise to the King sometimes. One day the favourite finding him in one of those fits of pleasing intoxication, when he had laid aside the majesty of the throne, and was playing with the little negro, she said that in consideration of the pleasure the child had afforded him, he should confer some favour on him. "Well then," replied the Prince, laughing, "I appoint him governor of the Castle and Lodge of Lucienne, with a salary of 600 livres per annum." This was executed on the spot in all the forms. His Majesty had the patent made out; but what diverted the favourite most, was

was the necessity the chancellor was under of affixing the seal to it.

IF the King was obliged to give way to all the extravagant whims of his mistress, how was it possible for the ministers to oppose them? It was thus that the *Sieur de Boynes* was forced to give into one of them. The *Sieur Dabbadie*, commissary of the marine, who had never served in the fleet, being seized with the desire of advancing himself, went to Paris with a parrot, which he presented to the favourite. The bird was so pleasing, that she asked the donor what might be done for him. After some affected modesty and diffidence, he concluded with expressing how happy he should be to have the same honour conferred on him as two of his colleagues, who had lately obtained the Cross of St. Lewis. "Be it so then," said the Countess, "you shall be a Knight of St. Lewis; I will speak to Boynes." She immediately sent to that minister, to bestow that favour on the giver of parrots.

IF Madam Dubarrè thus made so light of the most respectable favours of the King,

King, which were designed as a reward for services done to the nation, or blood spilt in its defence, we are not to be surprized that she shewed the same caprice or levity in regard to the arts. She went to the exhibition this year, 1773, attended by the Abbé Terrai, the new surveyor-general of the works, arts, manufactures, &c. and by a great number of celebrated artists. They had the mortification to see her severely abuse their different productions, and shew the most disdainful taste. It is, however, certain, that in criticism she displayed lights that were sufficient to shew that she did not speak from her own sentiments, but from the suggestions of envy. She left the place much dissatisfied, and repaired to the King at Choisi. She communicated to his Majesty her indignation against the bad pieces she had seen. The Sovereign endeavoured in vain to moderate her resentment, by observing, That she should not be so severe upon men of genius, least she should discourage them. Without paying any regard to his Majesty's remonstrances, she continued to vent
her

her ill-humour. She spared nothing but her own portrait and bust. The latter, indeed, merited the greatest praise; as to the other, it was execrable. A letter on the exhibition speaks of it in the following terms: “ The *Sieur Drouais* has scrawled another portrait of the *Countess Dubarrè*, which he has given in the character of a *Flora*, that appeared quite withered; he has given her a look that is more calculated to raise compassion than desire.

“ In this alone *Monfieur Pajou* rivals the *Sieur Drouais*, and far excels him in the opinion of many connoisseurs. Nothing can equal the beauty of the bust; for truth, grace, and expression, it is matchless. It strikes the least discerning eye with an air of voluptuousness that appears in every line of the face. The air and attitude second the designs of the statuary: every person, at the sight of this celestial figure, allows her, though without knowing her, the rank she occupies, and is ready to cry out with *Monfieur Voltaire*, The original was
“ made

“made for the gods.” After what has been related, the reader will not be surprized that the favourite had prevailed on the academy for architecture to admit the *Sieur le Doux*, her architect, a young man who is known by many works, in which there is taste, invention, and something sublime; but which, in general, are deficient as to design and judgment. He was elected to the prejudice of many older architects, on a letter from the Comptroller-general, informing the society, that *Madam Dubarré* and himself desired that the vacancy made by the death of the *Sieur Carpentier* might be filled up by the *Sieur Doux*.

WAS there any doubt remaining of the general degradation produced by this fortunate courtesan, the following anecdote would entirely remove it. We give the matter in the words of the manuscript from whence we have borrowed it.

THE 12th of October, 1773, “It is
 “reported, that the Duke of Gontaut, at
 “his return lately from Chanteloup, where
 “he had been to visit his brother-in-law,

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“the

“ the Duke of Choiseuil, did not neglect,
“ the moment he arrived, to pay his per-
“ sonal respects to the Countess Dubarrè.
“ The lady enquired after the exile, affirm-
“ ing, with her usual complacency, that
“ she never was his enemy, whatsoever
“ he might suppose to the contrary; and
“ that she was even inclined to be his friend,
“ if he desired it. Monsieur de Gontaut hav-
“ ing satisfied her first enquiries, the Coun-
“ tess asked another question. “ What,”
“ added she, “ does he think of the Coun-
“ cil of War of the Invalids?” The Duke
“ excused himself from repeating what
“ Monsieur de Choiseuil had said.—“ Why
“ so?” answered the Countess, “ nothing
“ is kept a secret from me.”——“ I am
“ sorry I cannot possibly indulge your cu-
“ riosity, Madam.”——“ What, has he
“ given it you under the seal of confes-
“ sion?”——“ By no means,” he replied.—
“ If so; I insist upon knowing what it is.”
“ —“ That is impossible; I cannot be
“ so far wanting in respect to you.”——“ Is
“ that all the objection? Make yourself
“ quite easy, and tell me what it is.”——“ Do
“ you

“you then command me, Madam?” “I
“do,” said she.—“Well then,” he said, “a
“fig for it.” At this the Countess was
“forced to hold her sides with laughing :
“The King came in, and found her in this
“merry mood. “Ah ! if your Majesty
“did but know how Choiseul expresses
“himself with respect to the council of war
“of the Invalids ! He is still the same.”
“——The King was eager to know the
“meaning of all this.—Without giving
“him time to enquire, however, she told
“him what he had said.—“And what are
“your own thoughts of the Council, Ma-
“dam,” replied the Monarch?—“Mine are
“the same,” said the Countess.—“We are
“three of us then of one opinion,” cried the
“King. This anecdote was related by
“Monsieur de Gontaut, and afforded great
“entertainment to the courtiers. We see
“with what mirth and levity the most se-
“rious affairs in France are treated, and
“what must be the spirit of the present
“government, since no branch of it can
“rouse the Prince, or open his eyes to

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“the

“ the laws and forms that have been so
“ wisely established.”

IN order to comprehend those remarks, and the whole anecdote, we must consider, that the Council of War in question was that which condemned Messieurs de Bellegarde and de Monthieu against all the rules of judicial process; an affair in which endeavours were used to involve the Duke of Choiseuil, as having given the orders of which the accused availed themselves.

THE excursion to Fontainbleau, the last which the Countess made, was not without alarms for her. She had then affected to shew but little apprehension of the charms of the young Viscountess. We have taken notice how she laughed at the fears with which some persons had endeavoured to inspire her on that account: she was not, however, so easy during this visit.— The assiduous attention of the Sovereign to her niece, disturbed her much. She could not bear to hear a song that was made on the young bride, because it too well described her powerful charms.—

THE jealousy, however, of the Countess was ill grounded in regard to the heart of the King. He was still attached to her, and continually gave her proofs of his love : he loaded her whole family with favours, and this example was eagerly followed by the ministers.—Even the Secretary of War, who was no stranger to the designs of the Duke d'Aiguillon to supplant him, by the assistance of the Countess, endeavoured to engage her by obligations and favours unsolicited, that were in his power. 'Twas very probably with this view that he ordered the Queen's regiment of dragoons into quarters near Fontainebleau, that the Marquis Dubarré, who was the colonel, might have an opportunity of attending the intended Countess of Artois, and performing the military honours for that Princess.

THE nuptials of the Count d'Artois afforded an opportunity to the royal mistress of making a splendid figure at the entertainments that were made on the occasion. The Princess was received by his Majesty at Choisi on the 4th of November.

There was a supper, consisting of fifty-four covers, at which were present the whole family, the princes and princesses of the blood, and several ladies of rank. The Sovereign had, on his right hand, the Dauphin, and all the princes; on his left, the Dauphiness, and the rest of the princesses. It was observed, that he had placed the Countess opposite to himself, as according to the *etiquette*, she could not be on either side of him that day. The masked ball had like to have proved fatal to the Countess. The crowd was so great, that whether it was owing to the imprudence of the lady, to some stratagem of pick-pockets, in order to come at her jewels, or the wicked contrivance of her enemies, she was in a dreadful situation, and was near being stifled, when a tall, well-built, powerful man in a mask, approached her, took her under his arm, encouraged her, protected her from the crowd, and carried her unhurt to a place of safety, that is, to the arms of her august lover. The protector being asked who he was, made answer, A nobody; who looked for no reward
for

for what he had done. He resisted a long while the pressing intreaties of the favourite to know her benefactor ; until, at length, overcome by the desires of the lady, who wished to see his face at least, he unmasked, and his countenance served only to excite a greater degree of gratitude in his favour : he was a young man of the most noble and prepossessing physiognomy. It was at last known that he was an attorney's clerk, his name Quinquet, and no more than nineteen years of age. The favourite was absolutely determined to make his fortune. She appointed him to be at Versailles a few days after, and began with procuring him a pension on the royal treasury, with a promise of doing more for him. No doubt the young clerk would have made a brilliant fortune, if the favour of his protectress had continued. But we must not anticipate the fatal event that terminated her power.

BEFORE her downfall, she had the triumph of removing the Marquis of Monteynard, notwithstanding the high place he held in the esteem of the Sovereign.

Besides the interest she had in his fall, in order to raise her friend the Duke d'Aiguillon to the direction of the War-office, she had a particular grudge to him on account of a great prince, in whose favour she greatly interested herself with the King. This was the Prince of Condé; 'twas he who had procured the place of Secretary at War for the Marquis de Monteynard, who afterwards became the most cruel enemy of his benefactor.—The occasion was as follows :

His Highness had proposed him only with hopes of finding in him a favourable and pliant minister, who would second him in the design he had of getting the place of Master of the Ordnance revived in his favour. The new secretary, in the transports at his promotion, had promised every thing that his benefactor desired. But the disgrace of the Princes, which happened soon after, left him at liberty not to perform the promises made to his Highness. Since his return to Court, however, the Prince de Condé having renewed his project, in which he was assisted

by the Countess Dubarré, Monsieur de Monteynard was working under-hand to prevent the loss of the most lucrative part of his department. He represented to the King, that a place of 400,000 livres a year would be too great a burthen to the state, at a time when funds for war were rather lessened than increased. He urged, moreover, the necessity of keeping the revenues of the Ordnance-office, in order to counterbalance the depredations that were made; a sample of which might be seen in the trial of Monsieur de Bellegarde. The Minister, in the mean time, is not blamed for having spoken from the sincerity of his heart, and agreeable to the obligations of his oath; but he merited great censure for his duplicity, for his condescension and pliancy to the Prince of Condé, his protector, while he acted quite differently before his Majesty. The favourite continually tormented the King with this affair. He gave her his word, that the Prince should have the place the first thing he did. 'Twas this anxiety that prevented the Sovereign from doing

any business with the Marquis of Monteynard. His irresolution lasted three months, and terminated in the removal of the most upright man in the ministry, in order to make way for the Duke d'Aiguillon. The latter had not a greater inclination than his predecessor to part with the ordnance ; but he took more artful means to preserve it. He persuaded the younger branches of the royal family to solicit the place, and so threw the Monarch into new perplexity. The King extricated himself in his usual way, and gave the office to no body. The Prince of Condé and the favourite were thus played with, without having apparent grounds to reproach the Duke.

His Majesty adopted a new method in regard to the blue ribbands, which he usually distributed at Candlemas. He had given his word to his Catholic Majesty, that the Count d'Aranda, the Spanish Minister at the Court of France, should be honoured with the order ; but Madam Dubarrè opposed it, because that ambassador persisted, as his predecessor had done, in refusing to do business at her apartments
with

with the King, as all the rest of the foreign ministers had always attended there, whenever requested by his Majesty ; besides, he would not even condescend to pay any court to her. The King, not knowing how to act, made no new knights, though there were twelve blue ribbands vacant.

WHILE the favourite put down one minister, set up another, prevented a stranger of the most exalted condition from obtaining a trifling honour that had been promised to him; she obliged a poet to recant what he had written, prevented the representation of a comedy, and violated the law of nations in London, on account of a libel, the publication of which she dreaded. We shall explain those particular and interesting events.

IN the beginning of the year 1774, there appeared a poetic epistle to Margot. It was well written ; the verses were easy and agreeable, and the images natural and well chosen. This little piece made a great noise ; less, however, on account of its merit, than for the allusions it seemed

to have to the Countess Dubarrè; though it was equally applicable to a thousand examples we every day have of the rise of courtezans; but the malignity of the public was not idle; and gave a great run to the piece.

THE scandal occasioned by this epistle, restrained the vanity of the author; and though it was so much in the style and manner of the *Sieur Dorat*, that every person ascribed it to him, he thought proper to disown it, in order to avoid the resentment of the lady in power, whom her enemies would fain have to be the *Margot* of the poem. He carried his dissimulation so far as to compose a second copy of verses, in which he severely attacked the first, though it was far superior to the latter; but this was necessary to avoid the Bastile.

THE *Sieur de Beaumarchais* was the second the literary gentleman who experienced a kind of opposition from the favourite. She had no personal resentment against him; on the contrary, she had found great entertainment in his memoirs; and
had

had a little piece acted relative to his trial; it was called, *The Best is good for Nothing*: the King was greatly diverted with it; in this, the members of the new parliament were severely ridiculed; but the Duke d'Aiguillon, who supported some of the heads of that tribunal, because he wanted their assistance against the chancellor, checked the mirth of the lady, shewed her the danger of such a conduct, and made her sensible of the necessity of putting a stop to a piece of the same author, that was on the point of being acted on the French theatre. This was a farce which had for title, *The Barber of Seville*, in which it was known that the Sieur de Beaumarchais, had inserted numberless sarcasms relative to the law proceedings against him; and which would expose his judges to general ridicule. The Duke managed the matter very artfully; as the Dauphiness patronized the piece, and would have it performed; he piqued the pride of the Countess, who was emulous to triumph over the Princess in such a contest:

test: she succeeded; the piece was not performed.

THE third literary anecdote we have to relate, happened about the same period, and refers to a libel, about which the minister of the foreign department was alarmed. He was apprehensive of being attacked equally with the favourite in the work, and conceived the design of having the writer taken up. The author was a Frenchman, who had fled to England. He was known there by the name of the Chevalier de la Morande, and as the author of *The Gazettier Cuirassé*. This man encouraged by the sale of his first libel, and having collected materials for a supplement to the work, conceived a more ready scheme of making money, which would be attended with less danger and trouble. He had sent letters to some opulent individuals in France, informing them that he had several scandalous anecdotes relative to them; but he thought it his duty to give them previous notice, and to know whether they might not be displeased to see them published; that for
a cer-

a certain sum, he would save them from such a mortification. Many complied with his demands; and, among others, the Marquis de Marigny. Stimulated by this success, the Sieur de la Morande had the boldness to write to the Countess Dubarré for a similar ransom. The favourite was alarmed, and complained to the Duke d'Aiguillon. The latter spoke to the English Ambassador, and begged of him to write to his Court about the matter. His B—— M—— replied, That he would not oppose the seizing of the miscreant in his dominions; that they were at liberty to drown or strangle the monster, who was a pest to society, and a scourge to mankind, provided the affair was managed with secrecy, and without any open violence against the law of nations. The Sieur Belenger was accordingly dispatched. He was one of those desperate officers, who having nothing to lose, are ready to attempt any thing. He was a professed gambler. In order to try fortune in another way, he undertook this secret commission. He was accompanied by some servants of the Police;

lice; such as, Receveur, Cambert, Finet, &c. On their arrival in London, one of them imprudently went to see Madam de Godeville, an abandoned, profligate woman, who had taken refuge in England. This blasted the whole design. They were described in the public papers. It was reported that they had been taken, and hanged as spies. This unfortunately was not the case; they were only obliged to conceal themselves, until an opportunity offered for making their escape. They returned to France so much terrified, that Receveur, the messenger, was out of his mind for some time after. More honourable methods were afterwards adopted. It was asserted for fact, that the Sieur Predeau de Chemilly, treasurer of the Marchauffées, having embarked on a pretence of going to buy horses in England, had been sent by the new Secretary at War, under whose orders he was, to purchase the manuscript; and that he had been commissioned to offer 40,000 livres for it. This negociation did not succeed; and we shew that it could not be finally settled,

tled, until the *Sieur de Beaumarchais* undertook the affair. In the mean while, as the favourite trembled every moment lest the book should be published, she made the Duke d'Aiguillon give orders to all their Ambassadors at foreign Courts, to stop the sale of it, as far as they possibly could. The Count de Noailles, who resided at the Hague, was particularly enjoined to make application to the States-General; the result of which was, that their High Migh-
tinesses issued a very severe edict. The following advertisement was circulated among all the booksellers of Amsterdam:

“ By virtue of the orders given by the burgomasters of this city, the heads of the company of booksellers inform their brethren, that they must carefully avoid publishing or selling the following book: *The Secret Memoirs of a public Female; or, Essays on the Adventures of the Countess Dub. from her Cradle to the Bed of Honour.* 4 vols 8vo. printed at London.”

Amsterdam, 12 March, 1774.

It was reported about this time, that the Count de la Forest Divonne, lieutenant-colonel

lonel of the regiment of Conti, and the King's lieutenant at Befançon, had been arrested at Ville-Jeuf, in his way to Paris ; it was said, that he was accused with having endeavoured to introduce some essays of the work. This anecdote, which has never been sufficiently cleared up, appears false ; as the book was not made public. The endeavours, however, of the Duke d'Aiguillon to contradict a report that must have died away of itself, gave some shrewd people room to think, that there was some charge of that kind against the officer.

EVERY year, the time of Easter was a critical season for Madam Dubarrè, and more alarming than any libel. Efforts were made to persuade the King to perform his Easter duty, as to religion. Madam Louisa, whom the Sovereign frequently visited, was the instrument the clergy made use of for the conversion of his Majesty. The august Carmelite redoubled her intreaties and exhortations this year. Madam Dubarrè, upon being informed of this, said, in a gay and careless manner, “ Well, if
“ the King performs his Easter duty, I
“ shall

“shall perform mine.” She was, however, at bottom much disturbed; the shocks which the health of the King had received, might contribute to produce a reformation in his conduct.

BUT after this anxiety, which passed over with the fifteen days, she had another subject of uneasiness. She could not but be sensible how much the Viscountess surpassed her in youth and figure. She perceived the intimacy that was between that lady and the Duke d’Aiguillon; nor was she a stranger to the warm constitution of the minister. She was persuaded that he was admitted to the bed of the young bride; and the courtiers fancied they could discern a certain coolness between the aunt and her niece. It is not an easy matter, however, to fathom so many dark and mysterious intrigues. Projects were hatching about this time of a more dangerous nature: this was, either to remove her, or to introduce another in her place. As it was thought necessary not to deprive the King of the pleasures of the sex, in which he had ever indulged himself; and that,

in

in the mean time, it was apparent that he grew more religious, the two factions that divided the Court, conceived the design of getting him married. The Duke d'Aiguillon convinced of the impossibility of a conscientious marriage between the King and Madam Dubarrè, projected one less dishonourable. A certain Baroness of Neukerque, a German lady of quality, who had formerly been married to a Dutchman of the name of Pater, appeared to him a proper object for his design. The lady was still young and handsome; the lecherous monarch liked her, and wished to enjoy her; but by the advice of the minister, she was difficult and scrupulous. She desired a private marriage, and, to qualify herself for this, she had lately dissolved her former marriage according to the Protestant form. On the other hand, the Princess Louisa, the Chancellor, and the Archbishop of Paris proposed a marriage in form with an Archduchess, who had objected against matrimony, and declared, That she should never have a husband, unless she had the King of France.

Louis

Louis XV. fluctuated in this uncertainty, in which he would have, doubtless, continued a long time, as he was not in the least dissatisfied with his mistress; and, to all appearance, there was no room to expect he would alter his mind. But a snare was laid for the favourite, into which, if she had fallen, she would have been probably ruined. It was suggested that her health made it necessary for her to drink the waters: to this she was urged by personal motives of interest, taken from real circumstances. It was well known that the King wearied and oppressed her with his lascivious and repeated caresses, which she was forced to indulge, and a kind of pleasure that inflamed the desires of her impotent lover, and prompted him to repeat his caresses. This constraint and dissimulation, and the violence she daily offered to her inclination, wasted and consumed her. Her own physician was made to tell her, that this would be the only way to procure some ease and rest that were absolutely necessary to her very existence. She was at a loss what to do.

There

There was nothing seemingly that should make her be fearful of such a journey. Her influence, her idle extravagancy, were still the same. Her insolence to the royal family still passed with impunity. 'Twas thus, when the Dauphiness so highly honoured the Chevalier Gluck, whom she had sent for from Vienna, in order to make a remarkable epocha and revolution in the music of France by his opera of Iphigene. The Countess conceiving that she could not distinguish herself better than by a generous protection of the arts, made a point of rivalling the Princess in this particular; and was preparing to send for, out of Italy, at a prodigious expence, the Sieur Picini, the greatest composer of that country.

THE Dauphin having expressed his indignation at the sight of a Palace which the favourite was erecting on the road to Versailles, next the house of the Sieur Benet, which she had purchased, and did not think worthy of her; this only induced her to expedite the work with a greater shew of ostentation. She gave orders that
all

all might be finished against her return from Fontainebleau. She previously endeavoured to fill it with all those whom she wished to have about her: she particularly mentioned a regular chaplain; and many country priests and curates, as well as clergymen about court, solicited that honour.

A DANCER at the opera-house, who threatened to go to Russia, excited the concern of this lady, and occasioned a general fermentation in both court and city. This dancer's name was d'Auberval, well known for his excellence in his profession. He was plunged in debt, and found it necessary to quit France, in order to settle his affairs, or shelter himself from the pursuits of his creditors. Besides, the Empress of Russia gave him the most flattering promises of a generous provision. The favourite took it into her head not to lose such a subject. She ordered an estimate to be made of the money sufficient to extricate him out of his difficulties. It was found to amount to 50,000 livres. In consequence of this information, a new tax was established at Court.

Court. She made a collection proportioned to the fortune of every one ; no person could offer less than five guineas, but she sometimes exacted ten, fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five, &c. By this method the sum was soon raised, and the apprehensions of those who admired this dancer, ceased.

THE collection gave rise to an event that was very fortunate for the person to whom it related. A nobleman laid hold of the occasion to make a previous remonstrance. He said, that the sum which was required of him, was intended for the relief of a poor officer on half-pay, who had a family, and who had solicited a small pension for several years. As a proof of what he had advanced, he, at the same moment, presented a memorial of the case to the Countess. He added, that he did not doubt but that the humanity of the Countess would be moved with the relation, and second the memorial, in order to make the unfortunate gentleman amends for the 25 guineas of which she deprived him, by obliging his benefactor to apply them to the discharging of the debts of the Sieur d'Auberval.

d'Auberval. The favourite felt all the force of a remonstrance made on such an occasion. She cheerfully undertook the affair; it succeeded as was natural to expect, though probably the memorial would have been rejected but for the delicate mode of application.

THE humorist, who had before invented a letter from the Sieur d'Auberval to Madam Dubarrè, relative to the marriage that lady was desirous of bringing about between the dancer and Miss Dubois, did not neglect to make him express his acknowledgments in another epistle, in the same easy and familiar style as the first. We at least presume, that this bantering letter could not be the real production of the dancer to whom it has been ascribed. It appears worthy of insertion :

Letter from the Sieur D'AUBERVAL, dancer at the Opera-house, to the Countess DUBARRE, thanking her for the collection she was so good to make at Court for the payment of his debts.

MADAM,
 “ I AM at a loss to express my grateful
 “ and deep sense of the obligations you
 R “ have

“ have conferred on me. Loaded, and
“ in a manner weighed down, as I have
“ already been by your former goodness,
“ I have now recently experienced a signal,
“ an unexampled favour at your hands,
“ for a man of my poor talents. I was
“ sunk in debt, the natural misconduct of
“ people of my profession; dissipation, the
“ luxury into which we are drawn by the
“ company we keep, and deep play, that
“ is in a manner made a necessary of life,
“ were the natural causes of the disordered
“ state of my affairs. This gave me but
“ little claim to public indulgence. Har-
“ rassed as I was by my creditors, having
“ no prospect of satisfying them, I had
“ resolved to leave my native country,
“ and retreat to Russia, whether I was in-
“ vited; and where the climate, notwith-
“ standing its rigour, would have been less
“ severe to me. It was your pleasure,
“ Madam, that a foreign land should not
“ possess a person very insignificant indeed,
“ but in your unmerited opinion of him.
“ You asserted, that it would be shameful
“ to lose, for the consideration of 50,000
“ livres,

“ livres, so inestimable a dancer. These
 “ were your own words ; and I would blush
 “ to repeat them, if there was any room
 “ for modesty for one honoured with your
 “ favour : But what would be sufficient to
 “ turn a stronger head than mine, was
 “ your eager desire to engage the whole
 “ Court to share in the re-establishment of
 “ my fortune. You alone was, undoubt-
 “ edly, sufficient to save me from ruin ; it
 “ would have been no more than a drop of
 “ water from a large river : it would have
 “ been more flattering to my heart to have
 “ had but one patroness. But what do I
 “ say ! I have, in fact, but one ; and it
 “ is to you alone I am indebted for the
 “ bounties of so many illustrious perso-
 “ nages. You observed, that as they were
 “ all my admirers, it was their duty to
 “ contribute to preserve me. You set on
 “ foot a subscription, and you seemed to
 “ open your doors but in proportion to
 “ the zeal people shewed in filling it up.
 “ ’Twas an absolute tax which you laid
 “ upon all those who courted your favour.
 “ Formerly the Marchioness of Pompa-
 R 2 “ dour,

“ dour, that amiable lady who preceded
 “ you in the splendid career which you
 “ have begun, whom the arts have eter-
 “ nized, because she had always cherished
 “ and supported them ; made a lottery for
 “ Geliotte * ; balls have been given for
 “ Grandval † ; a play for Molé ‡. These
 “ are, however, great men, infinitely su-
 “ perior to me, both by their talents, and
 “ the excellence to which they have car-
 “ ried them. It was reserved for you, Ma-
 “ dam, to look upon the loss of me as a ge-
 “ neral calamity, and to have recourse to one
 “ of those uncommon taxes which patrio-
 “ tism alarmed, emulously hurries to pay.
 “ In devoting myself more entirely than
 “ ever to your amusement, is the only way
 “ I can testify my gratitude. It is the bu-
 “ siness of artists, and the literati, to ce-
 “ lebrate your praise more worthily. What
 “ may not genius expect from a divinity so
 “ auspicious, if you condescend to do so
 “ much for a man of so slender talents,

* An ancient singer at the opera.

† An old comedian of the French theatre.

‡ An actor at present on the same stage.

“ and

“ and who is no other way commendable but
 “ in the happiness he has to contribute to
 “ your pleasures? Already has the pain-
 “ ter, the sculptor, and engraver, contended
 “ for the honour of exhibiting to the eye of
 “ wondering Europe the enchanting beau-
 “ ties of your person. The Muses have
 “ already crowned you with their laurels.
 “ Already has the patriarch of literature,
 “ the prince of our poets and philosophers,
 “ the venerable inhabitant of Ferney *,
 “ bowed to your altars, and in his person
 “ paid you the respects of Parnassus. May
 “ his example encourage those whom re-
 “ spect kept silent; may there be heard a
 “ general concert of your praises, and the
 “ scepter of arts and philosophy, fallen
 “ from the hand of the adorable Marchio-
 “ nefs whom they still lament, be com-
 “ mitted to yours, and give them, in you,
 “ a new Minerva! I am,

“ with the most profound respect, &c.”

Paris, 10th of April, 1774.

* Alluding to the letter of Voltaire to the Countess published in July 1773.

ABOUT the time this bantering epistle appeared, there was handed about a copy of a letter from London, which threw great light upon the libel we have mentioned, as well as with respect to other circumstances. It is too interesting to be omitted. The contents are as follows :

*Extract of a Letter from London, dated the
15th of April.*

“ THE real name of the pretended
“ Chevalier de la Morande, author of the
“ Gazettier Cuirassé, is Thevenot. He
“ is the son of a worthy lawyer of Arnay-
“ le-Duc in Burgundy, who died of a
“ broken heart, owing to the irregularities
“ of the son. The money he gained by
“ his infamous pamphlet, inspired him
“ with a resolution of living by libels.
“ From the place of his retreat, he has
“ actually threatened many opulent per-
“ sons that he would publish secret and
“ scandalous anecdotes about them, if they
“ did pay him a certain sum to be silent.
“ This succeeded with some.

“ HIS

“ His second libel attacked Count de
“ Lauraguais, who had treated him with
“ contempt, in an essay the title of which
“ was, *A Memorial for myself, and by myself*,
“ at the time of the prosecution against
“ his secretary. Morande did not publish
“ this libel against the Count, whom he
“ styled *Bras-Cassé*, (Brancas.) This was
“ owing to his imprudent endeavours to
“ promote the sale, by publishing scandalous
“ verses in one of the English
“ newspapers, for which the Count prosecuted him, and which must have crushed
“ that poisonous wretch. He, however,
“ was satisfied with obliging the scribbler
“ to burn the whole edition of his libel,
“ and to sign himself an impostor in all
“ the public papers.

“ He has published proposals for a work
“ in four volumes, which he is going to
“ print. The title of the book is, *The*
“ *Secret Memoirs of a public Woman, &c.*
“ with plates. It is an infernal compilation.
“ The *Gazettier Cuirassé* is nothing
“ to this infamous piece. The design of
“ Morande was to engage the persons in-

“ terested, to purchase the whole edition.
“ His terms were very modest; he asked
“ no more than 500 guineas down, and
“ 4000 livres a year, for his own life, and
“ the lives of his wife and son. But what
“ is most extraordinary, is that the Coun-
“ tesses should listen to such a proposal. Per-
“ sons were sent from Paris to negoti-
“ ate this honourable affair; they were
“ accompanied by some of the officers of
“ the police; this raised a suspicion that
“ they did not mean to treat fairly, and
“ that they rather designed to seize the
“ worthy author, &c. Morande was too
“ cunning for them; he began with borrow-
“ ing thirty guineas from each, after which
“ he sounded the alarm in such a man-
“ ner, that the agents, who were odious
“ to the people of England, concealed
“ themselves, and took the first opportu-
“ nity of escaping to France. In the
“ mean while, previous to the publication
“ of his book, Morande goes about read-
“ ing letters, which he tells people he
“ has written to the Chancellor, the Duke
“ d’Aiguillon, &c. wherein he menaces and
“ loads

“ loads them with insults and reproaches,
 “ &c. This has been the foundation of
 “ all the stories in regard to Madam de
 “ Godeville, and of all the idle tales to
 “ which his history has given rise.”

THE *Sieur de Beaumarchais* completed the negociation relative to this libel. This author, who is acquainted with works of this kind, had been lately censured at the new tribunal for what he had written under the title of *Memoirs*, which had excited the laughter of all Paris, and even of foreigners; but appeared for that very reason the more dangerous and reprehensible, in the eyes of sensible and impartial people. By this sentence he was disgraced, and rendered incapable of filling any office in France; but though he affected to laugh at his punishment, he was sensible however, that it must be injurious to him, and that it was necessary for him to recover his credit. This was the more difficult, as the *Duke d'Aiguillon* protected the personal enemies of this delinquent among the judges; and that he had made him more an enemy for having sought the

R 5 protection

protection of the Chancellor, and enlisted under the banners of his rival. The ill success of the first agent, who had been sent over by Madam Dubarrè, encouraged him to offer his services to that lady, with assurances of better success. It was impossible not to entertain a high idea of his intriguing talents. Monsieur de Sartines, the Lieutenant of Police, in order to serve him, assured the Countess that he was the only man for her purpose. She proposed the affair to the Duke d'Aiguillon, and the latter was glad of the opportunity to deprive Monsieur de Maupeou of such an adherent. He accepted the offers of the Sieur de Beaumarchais; he was introduced to his Majesty, who was diverted with his wit and sarcasms. Thus he was suddenly on the best footing at Court; he was allowed to make what terms he liked. He set out with full powers, and succeeded to the satisfaction of the parties interested, so that the work was never intirely published.

THE negociations no doubt cost a large sum, but money was not spared in what concerned

concerned the Countess, and those connected with her. A little before the King's illness, Count John wrote to the Sieur Beaujeon, the banker of the Court, that he had occasion for 100,000 livres, which he begged him to send; he drew a bill for the money at the same time. The Banker refused the money in terms as polite as possible; the Count replied in the most insolent manner, and expressed his dissatisfaction with menaces in case of a second refusal. The Sieur Beaujeon immediately repaired to Versailles, in order to consult the Abbé Terrai. The Abbé, after reading the letter, the answer, and the return to the answer, advised the Banker not to provoke so powerful a man, but to comply with his demands. And what must be the demands of a libidinous rake, who promised upwards of 13000*l.* sterling to a girl for one night's entertainment! This offer he made to Miss Le Clerc, belonging to the Opera-house, who was mistress to the Prince of Deux Ponts, and whose favour he endeavoured to purchase at such a price:

and this incredible folly was however less wonderful than the fidelity of the dancer, who was not to be corrupted by such a mountain of gold.

It was high time that such devastation should have an end; and France was tending to inevitable ruin, if the death of Lewis XV. had not changed the face of affairs. But what is most singular in this event, is, that it was effected by the very persons that were most interested to delay it.

Hrs Majesty was grown more gloomy for some time. The sudden death of the Marquis de Chauvelin, one of his favourites, who seemed to enjoy the most flourishing state of health, who was his companion in all his parties of pleasure, and who was taken off in one before his eyes, affected him much. This was continually in his thoughts. The death of the Marechal d'Armentiers, that happened almost in the same manner, and who was nearly of the same age with the Sovereign, had increased his melancholy. He was also disturbed in his conscience by a very pathetic

tic sermon, preached by the bishop of Senez, on Maundy Thursday. The advisers of the favourite agreed that she must redouble her efforts, in order to draw his Majesty out of the state he was in, even by riot and intemperance, in order to rouse the machine. It was therefore resolved to make an excursion to Trianon, where there would be more opportunities of prosecuting the design. It was observed, that his Majesty had contemplated, with a lascivious eye, a young girl, the daughter of a miller. She was sent for; and, after being washed and perfumed, was introduced to the bed of the royal lecher. He would have found it difficult to digest so luxurious a morsel, but for the assistance of some powerful potions, which were a pleasing relief for the moment, and procured him more pleasure than a debauchee at sixty usually experiences. The young girl, who unfortunately already felt the symptoms of approaching illness, was prevailed upon, with difficulty, to comply, and not till threats, as well as promises had been employed. It was not then discovered that

that she had symptoms of the small-pox, which soon shewed itself in the most melancholy manner, as she speedily fell a victim to it. The infection was communicated to the King; and the next morning his Majesty found himself ill, though the nature of his disorder was still undiscovered. Madam Dubarrè was advised to detain the patient in the same place, and so remain mistress of his person. But the *Sieur de la Martiniere*, his principal surgeon, taking advantage of the ascendant which the weakness of the King gave him, insisted upon his being immediately removed to Versailles, where it was known the next morning that his Majesty had the small-pox. It was easy to foresee that he would not recover. At first, however, they concealed his danger from him, lest they should alarm him too much. The favourite had the precaution to inspire his Majesty with a great confidence in the *Sieur Bordeu*, her own physician. He had the greatest share in the treatment, and attended the King as a principal with the *Sieur Monnier*, who performed the functions

tions of first physician. From the beginning of the disease, the design was opened of making the King settle his affairs. The Archbishop of Paris repaired to Versailles, in hopes of assisting the conscience of the august penitent ; but the *Sieur* strongly insisted, that nothing of that kind should be mentioned, asserting, that such declaration killed three-fourths of the sick. People were not strangers to the motives that determined him to act in this manner. 'Twas not so much the hopes of his Majesty's recovery, as the attachment and zeal of the doctor for *Madam Dubarrè*, who must have quitted the palace, if that ceremony had taken place ; which was a politic stroke of the enemies of the favourite. She kept her ground, therefore, and the Archbishop of Paris was dismissed by the patient himself, to whom his appearance, at that time, was displeasing. While he was in the room, his Majesty observed, That so many people were painful to him ; and gave orders to turn out all that were not immediately wanting. *Monsieur de Beaumont* returned to Paris, laughed
at

at by the clergy. The Prelate was, at that time, afflicted with a disorder in his bladder, to which the wags alluded, saying, "That his Grace p——d blood at Paris, "and made nothing but water at Versailles." Madam Dubarrè was afterwards one whole day at the King's bedside: she frequently visited him on other days. His Majesty, not knowing his disorder, often made her rub his purulent pimples with her delicate white hands. It was even asserted, that he still embraced her sometimes, and that once, in particular, he imprinted kisses on her breast. It was, however, necessary to come to the fatal separation. It was the King himself who, on the fifth night of his disorder, signified it to those who were about him: "I do not "desire," said he, "to have a repetition "of the scene at Metz. Tell the Dutchess d'Aiguillon, that I shall be obliged to her, if she will take away the "Countess Dubarrè." The favourite went, therefore, to Ruel with that lady. It appears, that she supported the dismissal with becoming fortitude. She wrote immediately

mediately to her mother to inform her of the change. In the letter she acquainted her, that his Majesty judged it improper to keep his mistress in the palace while he was in so critical a situation ; that he had, however, consoled her, by sending her word not to be uneasy ; that she should be properly taken care of. It was plain, moreover, that he did not send her away but with reluctance, and when he was not himself ; for soon after, his Majesty having forgot the absence of his favourite, he called for her again ; but the blow was given. She had then reason to remember the almanack of Liege, that had given her so much trouble, and which she had suppressed as far as she could : in the predictions for the month of April, it said, “ One of the most favourite ladies will perform her last part.” She was modest enough to make the allusion to herself ; and she used frequently to say : “ I wish this plaguy April was over.” But what is hardly credible, in the deep affliction in which she must have been at Ruel, her table for luxury

luxury and ease did not forsake her a moment. The beds at the house of the Duke d'Aiguillon did not appear soft enough, and she sent for one to Lucienne. It is certain, that she entertained hopes almost to the last hour, notwithstanding the declaration of the King, delivered by the Grand Almoner before he received the sacrament: "That his Majesty was sorry
" for all the scandal he had given his subjects; and that he would, for the future, live only to support the true faith
" and religion, and promote the true happiness of his people." Madam Dubarrè knew the insignificancy of the promises made by a dying man when he recovered his health, and the courtiers themselves shewed it. The day previous to the death of Louis XV. when his Majesty appeared less dangerous, there was a continual procession of coaches from Versailles to Ruel, more considerable than even that from Paris to Versailles; but this decreased in proportion as the news grew worse; and, when all hopes of his Majesty were over,

over, those, whom prudence had restrained, broke out into reproaches against the mistress and her family. The name of Dubarrè was so hateful, that the young Marchioness Dubarrè (formerly Miss Fumell) who was obliged to remain at Court as the attendant of the Countess d'Artois, seeing how far the public contempt was levelled at her, took the resolution, in order to avoid worse, to make her servants change their liveries. It was well known, however, that she had always an aversion to the match to which she was made a sacrifice. This should have saved her from reproach, and even excited pity in her favour. Notwithstanding the solemnity of the occasion, jests and puns flew about. It was said, "That the coopers were going to be very busy, as the * barrels were all gone."

THE enemies of the Countess spread a report that the Countess had made her escape from Ruel; which was false and impossible. She there learned the fatal

* Alluding to the affinity between the word *barrel* and *Barrè*, which is more tolerable in the French.

news of the death of her august lover; and the Duke de la Vrilliere delivered the *lettre de cachet*, by which she was banished to the abbey de Pont-aux-Dames, in Brie, near Maux. She could not bear with temper the sight of the minister, whom she had so lately seen crouching at her feet. She reproached him bitterly for the part he was performing; and with respect to the order of the King, she exclaimed, in her usual emphatical style, "What a fine King he will make, who begins with a *lettre de cachet*!" She was still more outrageous when she understood the manner in which she was to live at that place, with only one maid; and not allowed to see any person, not even her own family; or send any letters away before the Mother-abbess had perused them. This severity appeared culpable and injurious to the memory of the deceased King, in the eyes of many; but it was a necessary policy at the time. There could be no room to doubt that the favourite was acquainted with the most secret affairs of state; and it was of consequence to prevent a woman of so much levity from divulging.

divulging them. In order to check the piety that such treatment might awaken in delicate and tender breasts, a circumstance was related that was enough to rouse the indignation of the people against her, and stifle every sentiment of pity: the public was informed that she had given recent orders for one hundred hat-laces at her hatters; this was in fact saying, she had a hundred servants in livery; a shocking luxury that must naturally produce a lively sense of the happiness in being delivered from such a scourge. Besides, it was soon known that the *lettre de cachet* was not severe in its expressions; his Majesty said, That reasons of state obliged him to order her to retire to a convent, but that he should not forget how much the Countess had been honoured with the protection of his Grandfather, and at the first meeting of Privy Council, care should be taken to assign her a proper pension, if her situation should make it necessary.

THIS generosity on the part of the King was the more noble, as the Courtiers were no strangers to the unbecoming manner in which

which the favourite expressed herself concerning him; she used to call him the *great spoiled boy*, and so far abused her familiarity with the King, as to call the Dauphiness *Red-head*, and carrying her criminal pleasantry still farther, added, “Your Majesty must be careful lest Red-head should get herself trussed in some corner.” This was a freedom, or rather insolence that merited the severest punishment. It seemed, however, as if the monarch and his august consort, after the example of Lewis XII. who took no notice of the injuries done to the duke of Orleans, had forgot the insults that had been offered to the Dauphin and Dauphiness; and that reasons of state alone influenced their conduct with regard to the favourite. It was not the same in respect to Count John, surnamed the Court plunderer, and whom all honest men wished to be prosecuted.

It is related that this intriguing genius, sensible of his dangerous situation, and not knowing how to act, or whom to consult, upon the death of the King, opened his
mind

mind to the *Sieur Goys*, a facetious fellow, with whom he was very intimate, and asked his opinion as to what course he should take. "Faith, my dear Count," said the droll, after rubbing his forehead, "you must get a disguise and post horses." The Count not relishing the advice, and vexed at the thoughts of running away like a vagabond, begged of his friend to think of some more honourable expedient; *Sieur Goys* rubbed his forehead again, "Well then," said he, "get post horses and a disguise." He could execute this advice but in part; his sister-in-law had not sufficient confidence in him to enable him to follow it intirely. He set out therefore secretly, and thus eluded the vigilance of the officers of Police, who had orders to make diligent search after him. People did not doubt but his friend, the Duke d'Aiguillon, who was still the minister for foreign affairs, favoured his escape. Every tongue was let loose against him; a thousand villainies were related against him: among other criminal freedoms told of him, it was said, that when he wanted money,
his

his word used to be, “ Our brother Let-cher will give us enough.” With such incredible freedom did he express himself in talking of the King. People jested probably for the last time upon this abandoned man, when they said, that he hid himself in a basket of *Mackarels, in order to escape singing the well known words: *Happy we are to live in the bosom of our family.*

THE retreat of Madam Dubarrè occasioned an immediate revolution at Court. All those whom she removed thence, or who absented themselves as being disagreeable to her, now returned; among others, the Dutchess of Grammont, attendant on the Dauphiness, who had been banished from Court, soon after her attachment to that princess, as has been already related: she received a letter from the Queen herself, desiring her to return, and exercise her functions about her person.

FOR the same reason her creatures and relations were obliged to resign the employ-

* *Maqueraux* has a double meaning in French, and signifies either *Mackarels*, or *pimps*.

ments which they had obtained among the royal family through her interest. The Marquis Dubarré and his lady quitted the service of the Count and Countess d'Artois ; in short, the change was general.

At the same time, accounts came from Toulouse, intimating, that as soon as the news was received of the removal of Madam Dubarré, and even previous to the death of the King, the populace openly indulged their resentment against Count William, her husband ; and punished his insolence, by hooting and flinging dirt at him. It was added, that this rage had since increased ; and would have been carried to the utmost extremity, if the unhappy man had not saved himself by flight.

THE personal fortune, however, of the favourite suffered nothing on this occasion. Though it was known she had a large income, and an immense property in effects ; all that was done was, to endeavour to make her discharge her debts. The Sieur Pot-d'Auteuil, her attorney, had permission to attend her at Pont-aux-dames, in

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order

order to consult with her upon that subject, and the rest of her domestic affairs. At the same time, another indulgence was granted to her; her sister-in-law and niece obtained leave to visit her. She was allowed an additional maid to wait upon her; and as she complained of the want of room in her apartments, the *Sieur le Doux*, her architect, had free admittance into the Convent, and was allowed to make the apartments as convenient as the place would allow; or even to build, if necessary.

IN this situation, what must have been most affected was, the pride of the lady, if she had a delicate and generous mind. She could not but feel the mortifying manner in which people in general talked of her. They now made themselves amends for the mean and servile incense which they had formerly offered. The most cutting jest was a certain original pun in which the different scenes of her life were displayed, by exhibiting her on so many bridges at Paris. She was supposed first to set out from *Pont-aux-choux**, alluding

* *Pont-aux-choux* means *Root* or *Cabbage-bridge*.

to her being the daughter of a cook-maid; to her next stage *Pont-neuf*, her first trade of street-walker; from *Pont-neuf* to *Pont-audouble*, her pregnancy; thence to *Pont-auchange*, her change of fortune; afterwards to *Pont-marie*, her marriage; then to *Pont-royal*, her elevation; and at last to *Pont-aux-dames*, the place of her exile. Many other little pieces were circulated, reflecting not only on the favourite but her friends; and even the memory of the deceased monarch was not spared. Mademoiselle Arnoux, one of the singers at the opera-house, famous for her wit and licentious manners, was heard to say, "I am now an orphan without father or mother."

IN all this confusion, the Duke d'Aiguillon was the most perplexed. His attachment to Madam Dubarrè, for his intimacy with that lady was now so well known, that people did not scruple to say, that he shared her bed with the King; and his connexions with the brother-in-law, were unpardonable crimes with the young Monarch. Many persons censured him for receiving the mistress of Louis XV. into

his house; but besides that, he could not refuse complying with the orders of the Prince; he would have been guilty of the highest ingratitude to abandon the fair fugitive on so critical an occasion; and even according to policy, he acted wisely; for, as he was certain of his disgrace, he would avoid, at least, the reproach of any signal ingratitude to his benefactress, and fall with honour: for so it happened soon after. His Dutches having been very ill received at the levee of the Queen, at her first appearance there, was so much mortified, that she expressed a desire to her husband of retiring to the family estate. He was of her way of thinking; and looked upon the contempt of the Queen as a prelude to his own disgrace: he thought it more honourable, therefore, not to wait for the blow; and resigned his employments about three weeks after the death of Louis XV. To complete the mortifications of this disastrous event to Madam Dubarrè, besides losing the only real protector she had at Court, her most inveterate enemy, the Duke de Choiseuil, appeared there again.

BEFORE

BEFORE we conclude these memoirs, we shall give our readers two curious pieces ; the one, a letter pretended to be written by Count John, who fled to Switzerland, with passports from the Duke d'Aiguillon ; the other is a genealogy of the Dubarrès.

THE former is directed to the Sieur de Saint, his creature. The Sieur Dubarrè gives an account, in the letter, of his misfortune, his flight, and retreat. He makes a severe comparison between the manners of the place of his residence and those of Paris. He regrets his removal from this city, that afforded so many resources to men of his industry and talents ; whereas he can find none where he at present resides. After some reflections on his sister-in-law, he concludes with moralizing on the vanities of this world. This letter, which there is no reason to suppose authentic, is, however, entertaining, and contains some curious anecdotes. It is not generally known ; and we shall therefore insert it at full length.

Copy of a Letter from Count DUBARRE, written from Laufanne, to his friend Monsieur de SAINT, and dated the 30th May, 1774.

“ MY dream is now over, my friend ;
“ after sleeping in France, I was much
“ surpris'd to find myself awake in Swit-
“ zerland. I am now in the capital of the
“ district of Vaud ; a city, where industry
“ like mine has but little room for exer-
“ tion. The manners here are plain and
“ simple ; the women are modest ; the
“ men candid and honest : a watchful eye
“ is kept over the younger females ; and
“ the laws are very strict. What then
“ must become of me in a place so much
“ out of my element ? Gaming and in-
“ trigue are in little esteem here ; and if a
“ person were inclined to carry on any
“ traffic with respect to the Swiss ladies,
“ he must sell them by weight. Art does
“ not contribute to refine them ; and their
“ taste is more material than delicate.
“ Every thing round me appears strange.
“ I see simplicity, honesty, chastity, friend-
“ ship

“ ship and reserve ; and all the Virtues
“ talk Swifts : I know none of them.

“ IN Paris I was at the head of a splen-
“ did band ; and the girls can never for-
“ get how much my interest contributed to
“ enlarge their empire. The season was
“ favourable to the improvement of my
“ talents ; and their gratitude should raise
“ monuments to my fame in the square of
“ Palais-royal. I had established, in my
“ own family, the fountain of favours and
“ wealth, whose exuberance overflowed,
“ and enriched my territories. By what
“ fatality has youth destroyed a course
“ which old age daily increased ! I had
“ scarce time to carry off a part of my la-
“ bours, and am now reduced to drink and
“ dream like the Swifts, without meeting
“ those marks of respect which the nobles
“ at court profusely lavished on my merits.
“ My greatest perplexity, at present, is to
“ know where my service may be accep-
“ table. My reputation is generally esta-
“ blished ; but the powers of Europe are
“ now employed in watching the motions
“ of each other ; and now, as I am but ill

“ qualified for military service, I am ap-
“ prehensive that they will think me too
“ extravagant to employ me in chamber-in-
“ trigues. I learn, with sorrow, that my
“ very best friends, whom I have welcomed
“ to my house a hundred times, for whom
“ I have solicited favours, and to whom I
“ have frequently opened my purse, now
“ openly disown me, and are the first to
“ tear my reputation. I blush for their
“ ingratitude ; but if they despise me, I
“ am even with them. I leave two fami-
“ lies at Paris, whom I beg you will take
“ care of. I will send you supplies in a
“ package of cheese and drugs. I cannot
“ bear inaction. I lament the fate of my
“ poor sister-in-law. She did not go thro’
“ her noviceship in convents, so austere as
“ that in which she is now confined. Had
“ I not been separated from her, I should
“ still make some advantage of her person ;
“ but she is a little wrong-headed, and
“ would not listen to my advice, or make
“ me her confidant. My brother meets with
“ no better treatment; but he is a block-
“ head, and he will be happy enough if
“ he

" he can gather any gleanings in a field that
 " he has not cultivated. When we are
 " unfortunate, every thing conspires to
 " distress us. My title to nobility will now
 " be boldly contested ; and the English
 " Barry's lost to me. I had some notion
 " of going to Turkey, and commencing
 " dealer in slaves ; but I am assured, that
 " the Grand Signior would deprive me of
 " the power of trying my commodities. I
 " am, therefore, at a loss what resolution
 " to take. As soon as I have fixed upon
 " any scheme, I will let you know. I have
 " been obliged to change my name ; I am
 " now called the de Vaudernom. Direct for
 " me in the Fish-market. Merit and ta-
 " lents have some bright moments ; but
 " they are too often persecuted. Pity your
 " old friend, who, in all conditions, will
 " ever remain,

" Yours, &c."

SOME people attributed this satirical
 letter to the Chevalier de Boufflers ; others,
 to Counsellor Marchand. It is most pro-
 bable that it came from the latter, who is

naturally cold and dull ; to which qualities years have added. The Chevalier would have written in a more sprightly and facetious style.

THE genealogy is still more important, as it is very exact, does not go far back, and settles the various opinions relative to the family of Dubarrè. It shews them to be a people sprung from nothing ; but who, taking advantage of a similitude in the name, endeavoured, at first, to ingraft themselves in a better family ; and, afterwards, on another, still more ancient and illustrious, as shall appear :

GENEALOGY OF THE DUBARRES.

“ LEVIGNAC, three leagues from Toulouse, in the Marquisate of Montagut, belongs to the family of Thezan.

“ THE cottage of the Barrès is at the west end of this village, very near the parish-church, situate on a stream, called the *Sarre*, which falls into the *Garronne*, near Grenade.

“ THE

“ THE grandfather of Count John was
 “ called Simon Barré, bailiff or keeper of the
 “ Vineyard to Gilles Mazurien, attorney;
 “ and grandfather of the Marchioness of
 “ Thezan.

“ THE son of Barré the bailiff was a
 “ notary at Levignac, and father of Count
 “ John.

“ THIS notary had two brothers; the one,
 “ a butcher at Levignac; and the other
 “ a substantial farmer, of the village of
 “ St. Paul, belonging to the Marquis of
 “ Montagut.

“ THE eldest brother, the notary, had six
 “ children, three sons and three daughters.

“ JOHN Barré, the Count, married at
 “ Castelaudans the daughter of a reputable
 “ citizen. He had 15,000 livres with his
 “ wife: this surprised every body, as he was
 “ known to be very poor. This woman
 “ is handsome and virtuous; and would not
 “ accept any favour from the Barrés.

“ WILLIAM, the husband of the fa-
 “ vourite, is sufficiently known.

“ WILLIAM and Elias were often seen in

“ wooden shoes : the latter married Miss.
“ de Fumel.

“ THEIR sisters were, 1st Catherine, who
“ was married to a man of the name of
“ Filieuse, a farmer at Levignac, who
“ likewise rented lands at Fonniel, and a
“ little domain called Larra. This Filieuse,
“ before the last illness of the King, ob-
“ tained a patent of nobility.

“ CHON from Fauchon, who had three
“ children, besides others that are not
“ known ; two by Monsieur de Fouga, an
“ old officer of the French guards, in which
“ corps he served a while ; and for whom
“ he procured a captaincy in the Queen's
“ regiment of dragoons, and afterwards a
“ regiment of militia.

“ THE father of the third child was
“ called Nugués. Chon was the fa-
“ vourite and confidant of the Countess.

“ LA PISCHY, she was an agent under
“ her sister Chon, and went by the name
“ of Miss de Serre.

“ THIS name of *Serre* was taken from
“ a manor, belonging to the family of
“ Thezan.

“ JOHN

“ JOHN, otherwise Count John, had a
“ son called Adolphus Dubarrè; who mar-
“ ried Miss de Tournon, and was a Page
“ of the Bed-chamber.

“ His uncle Elias, colonel of the Queen’s
“ Regiment, was educated at the Military
“ Academy, on account of the services
“ which John had rendered to the Dukes
“ of Richlieu and Duras, for whom he
“ officiated as a Mercury.

“ THERE is a Barrè, called *the Deaf*,
“ who lives nobly about five leagues from
“ Toulouse, and three leagues from Le-
“ vignac; and is of a family that has been
“ honourable about a hundred years.

“ THE Barrès we are speaking of, en-
“ deavoured at first to *ingraft* themselves
“ on him, and he permitted them; but
“ as he could not date the honour of his
“ ancestors higher than a century, nothing
“ was done for him. They had recourse
“ then to the family of Barrimore in Ire-
“ land, who are of the same race with
“ the Barrès of Perigord; known by the
“ name of Renaudeés, as may be seen in
“ the history of the conspiracy of Ambois.

“ IN

“ IN 1750, John took the name of Count
“ de Serre, from a manor belonging to
“ the family of Thezan, and dependant
“ on the Marquisate of Montague.

“ HE borrowed a sum of money from
“ an old chirurgion-major of a regiment
“ of infantry, whose name was Fourcade,
“ who lodged at the Shoe-square in Tou-
“ louse. With this money he frequented
“ the baths to exercise his talents.

“ THE Duke d'Antin was at one of those
“ places, to drink the waters with the
“ Countess of Toulouse and the Dutches
“ d'Antin, who took him for a gentleman ;
“ for at his arrival, he wore red heels, and
“ rose-coloured cloaths. He did not, how-
“ ever, succeed at Toulouse ; but was dri-
“ ven thence, and was obliged to sell some
“ pieces of land to pay the chirurgion,
“ who sued him for the recovery of his
“ money. He then went to Paris, and
“ assumed the name of Count de Serre :
“ he introduced himself at the levee of
“ the Princes, whence being expelled, he
“ took the name of Count Dubarrè. The
“ remaining

“ remaining part of his story is well
“ known.”

WE have only to add a word or two relative to the manner in which the Countess behaved, after her removal from Court. According to the account of the Abbess of Pont-aux-dames, who had a particular charge to inspect her conduct, and from the testimony of the nuns, who were the companions of her retreat, it appears, that she cannot be accused of any capital error or misdemeanor ; on the contrary, her behaviour is commended ; and she is allowed to be mild and courteous to every body.

WITH respect to her mind, she has shown no signs of the extravagant rage of a haughty spirit, who being raised from a low and obscure station to an exalted rank, does not think it above her ; and is torn from it with rage and disappointment, and whose ambition continually measures the height from whence she fell with eyes of despair. Nor had she that silent, deep and stupifying grief of a tender-hearted female, whom death had robbed of the idol of her affections, who sees no lover worthy to supply

MEMOIRS OF

ply his place, has no desire for any other object after him, and contemplates all nature but as a horrid vacuum.

THIS situation of the favourite confirms the reflections which the reader must have frequently made in the course of these memoirs, That notwithstanding her exalted station at Court, she did not continue there from a natural inclination: she was not formed for the place, and could not be happy there, divested of the only passion that could excite her activity, enable her to support the fatigue, and submit to the disgusting mortifications that attend such a life: that, on the other hand, she never loved the King; and not being attached to him, either on account of his surrounding greatness or the personal qualities which the monarch displayed in private life, and which made those courtiers love and adore him, who were admitted to his private parties, she would have looked upon it as a happiness to be freed from him, if his death had not been followed by severe mortifications, and especially by a long and painful captivity. To this cause alone we
must

must attribute the waste of her charms, which quite altered her. Besides, the inaction in which the gloomy habit of mourning left her for a time, was a real subject of affliction to her. It was plain, that as soon as she could indulge her taste for coquetry, her principal occupation was dress. This seems still her only passion. She uses every art to set off her person and figure; she is continually varying her dress. This pleasure, of which she has recovered the enjoyment, gives her new spirits, and adds fresh lustre to her beauty; and the liberty she has of shewing herself, enjoying society, and inspiring desires, has quite restored the power of her charms.

It is now looked upon as a certainty that the *lettre de cachet* is intirely taken off, and that Madam Dubarrè is at liberty to go where she likes, provided she keeps at the distance of ten leagues from Paris and the Court. It is said, that she will remain this winter at Pont-aux-dames; that in the mean time she proposes purchasing an estate for her future retirement. One, it is added, has been proposed to her, which she

she thought too remote; and exclaimed, That she did not want to be buried alive. Count Dubarrè, her brother-in-law, who has taken a fine house at Genoa, would willingly induce her to settle there, in hopes, no doubt, of reaping farther advantage from her charms. But it is thought that she has no inclination to resume the yoke of such a man; besides, the Government would hardly permit her to reside in a foreign country. She will therefore probably spend her days in France; where she will afford consolation to Envy, excite the compassion of Philosophy, the despair of Beauty, and the emulation of numberless courtezans, whose foolish ambition, after reading her story, may lead them to aspire to similar honours.

T H E E N D.



